

Hafa Adai!

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Man in quarantine dies

» Possible COVID-19 complications seen

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

A 70-year-old man who was suspected of being infected with the novel coronavirus died yesterday while in quarantine at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

It was learned at an emergency press briefing yesterday at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

on Navy Hill that the man had no travel history but recently came in contact with someone who had

tested positive for COVID-19.

The governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC chief executive of-

ficer Esther Muña clarified that the contact between the deceased and
See MAN on Page 4



A man who passed away yesterday due to possible coronavirus-related complications was one of those in quarantine at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe, which is being used as a site for people who returned from off-island to undergo the mandatory 14-day quarantine.

JUSTINE NAUTA

AT A GLANCE

As of March 29, 2020

GUAM

Tested: 386
Negative: 295
Positive: 58
Recovered: 7
Deaths: 1

CNMI

Tested: 20
Negative: 4
Positive: 2
Pending: 11
Deaths: 0

Source: Joint Information Center
- Guam, Commonwealth Health
Care Corp

7pm curfew for all

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Starting last night, everyone must be home by 7pm. Violators will be given citations.

Following the death of a suspected COVID-19 patient and two positive cases in the CNMI, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres ordered yesterday a 7pm curfew for everybody, with those found to be violating to be cited according to law.

"Starting tonight, 7pm, if you are not part of the exception, you need to stay home. Starting tomorrow night, citations will be forthcoming to anybody that does not fall under the exception of curfew hours," the governor said.

Not included in the curfew are law enforcement officers, first
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SMALL BOATS ONLY

With government resources redirected to assist with COVID-19 response and operation, small boats will only be allowed to operate within the Saipan lagoon, with no access beyond the reef. **Story on Page 3**

IVA MAURIN

Trump extends virus guidelines, braces US for big death toll

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bracing the nation for a death toll that could exceed 100,000 people, President Donald Trump on Sunday extended restrictive social distancing guidelines through April, bowing to public-health experts who presented him with even more dire projections for the expanding coronavirus pandemic.

It was a stark shift in tone by the president, who only days ago mused
See TRUMP on Page 4

Unemployment aid for NMI workers OK'd

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed an agreement on Sunday afternoon with the U.S. Department of Labor to implement the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for CNMI workers

who were recently affected by the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, which is provided under

the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, provides emergency unemployment assistance to workers who do not have unemployment insurance,

which is not available within the U.S. territories.

The program will provide eligible workers weekly unemployment
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BUSINESS

The coronavirus response bill won't fix the problems with the shortage of gloves and masks.

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NATION

Families describe wrenching farewells through hospital windows with dying loved ones.

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ASIA

A plane carrying eight people bursts into flames in Manila, killing all those on board.

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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

With \$21M left, Finance calls for even more cost-cutting

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance is urging the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to implement stringent cost-containment measures, following its report that the CNMI has only \$21 million to run the entire government for the rest of the fiscal year.

In a report on the revised annual revenue estimates addressed to the governor, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig projected a 48% decrease on the fiscal year 2020 budget due to the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has to the local economy, triggered by the massive decline in tourists, trickling down to other businesses.

"The halt in tourism will result in unprecedented reductions in tax collections and other revenue-generating activities in government operations and services," Atalig said.

The department also projects that government spending will decline from previous

years and the spill-over effects of the loss of government expenses will become more apparent in the CNMI economy, moving forward.

Included in the cost-containment measures Atalig has suggested is the consolidation and restructuring of government departments. "This is a unique opportunity for the administration to maximize our limited financial resources by reviewing agencies and programs to streamline overlapping organizations and responsibilities," the official said. "I recommend the administration should consider the benefits of a reduction-in-force program that redirects government personnel to address the ongoing shortage of labor in the CNMI private sector."

Finance also recommended that there will be no hiring, re-hiring, reclassification, reassignments, within-grade increases, or any other change in status, in terms of personnel actions.

Atalig also proposed that working hours for employees funded under the general fund

be decreased to 64 hour per payroll period and, for federally-funded positions, 80 to 72 hours, "to use federal dollars to stimulate economic activity

within the domestic economy through local consumption expenditures."

Finance is also encouraging all government agencies to

help ensure federally-funded programs are prioritized and their ability to apply for similar opportunities are sustained. Aside from these, restric-

tions in overtime, travel, contracts and leases, and purchases have also been recommended. Finance also called for utilities and fuel conservation.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

In compliance with the social distancing directive, the Hlmawari store in Garapan has put in place guides and signs that instruct its customers to line up and keep their distance from one another.

KRIZEL TUAZON

Camacho: DFEMS, CHCC not entitled to restitution in fatal hit-and-run case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court ruled yesterday that the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. are not entitled to restitution in a fatal vehicular hit-and-run case because they are only third-party indirect victims.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied the CNMI government's request to hold Esekial "Easy" Smith liable to pay \$1,866 in restitution for medical services provided by DFEMS and CHCC to the victim in the accident.

Camacho, however, found that Smith is liable for \$4,972 in restitution payment to the victim's mother, Gloria Cabrera.

The Office of the Attorney General had asked for a total of \$8,613 in restitution. Smith conceded that he owed \$4,972 in restitution.

Camacho also ruled that the tort defense of comparative negligence does not apply in this case because family members of victim Melton Agulto did not negligently contribute to their damages.

The judge also ruled that voluntary offertory gifts to a priest performing the funeral mass are gifts and, therefore, are not economic losses for purposes of restitution under the statute.

Camacho said the \$200 offertory gift from the victim's family to the priest performing the funeral Mass cannot

be described as an economic loss that was the result of Smith's criminal conduct because, though the definition of "restitution" includes funeral expenses, the money was a voluntary gift.

According to court records, in the evening of Aug. 18, 2019, Agulto was intoxicated and got into physical altercations—first at the San Vicente basketball court and then later at his home. The altercations caused Agulto to sustain injuries and he was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center. At the hospital, Agulto acted belligerently with the CHC personnel, then fled on foot from the hospital. Police failed to locate him.



Camacho

After midnight on Aug. 19, 2019, Smith, who was driving a vehicle north in Puerto Rico, hit Agulto as the latter was walking in the middle of the street. Smith fled the scene after the accident. Agulto died as a result of his injuries.

In the same morning of the accident, Smith appeared at the police station and voluntarily surrendered to police.

On Jan. 30, 2019, Smith accepted responsibility and pleaded guilty to the charges of leaving an accident scene and reckless driving. That same day, he was sentenced to five years and six months imprisonment, with the last six months suspended.

Smith was ordered to pay restitution to Agulto's family and made eligible for work

release while serving his sentence to pay the restitution.

The parties agreed that, at a minimum, Smith owed \$1,000 in restitution. The defendant immediately paid the amount from the bail money that he had posted.

The parties disagreed as to how much was owed in restitution and to whom.

On June 5, 2019, Camacho held a restitution hearing. Assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr. appeared for the government. Assistant public defender Jean Pierre Noguez represented Smith.

Noguez argued that DFEMS and CHCC were not victims in this case and are not entitled to restitu-

tion, and that the tort defense of comparative negligence should apply in this matter.

In his ruling yesterday, Camacho said Smith's reckless driving and act of leaving the scene of the accident were committed against Agulto, not DFEMS and CHCC. Camacho said neither were DFEMS and CHCC the immediate objects of Smith's crimes. The judge said the only harm that DFEMS and CHCC can claim to have suffered is the economic damage caused by the uncompensated medical care that they provided to Agulto.

Camacho said because DFEMS and CHCC are government agencies and as government agencies would not be entitled to restitution if they were "direct victims of Smith's

crimes, the court finds that the agencies are only indirect third-party victims and therefore not entitled to restitution.

Camacho said the only victim entitled to restitution is Agulto's mother, Gloria Cabrera, who is seeking restitution for the economic harm she experienced.

The judge said because Smith failed to show that Cabrera negligently contributed to her economic harm, and as Cabrera is only seeking restitution for her own economic loss, the court finds that the tort defense of comparative negligence is inapplicable in this case.

As for the remaining \$1,775 disputed by Smith, Camacho said the government failed to prove that Smith owes the amount.

Cabrera testified the alleged payments of \$100 for the social hall for the funeral gathering; \$125 for a picture frame; \$250 for the Heart of Worship Choir to perform at the funeral Mass; \$380 for printing the funeral program; and \$720 for the ice and drinks.

Camacho said Cabrera, however, did not herself contract or pay for these services and she did not know who did.

Camacho said although the government did produce a ledger showing the alleged payments, the ledger did not say who paid for the services.

The judge said the government failed to provide credible evidence to address the discrepancies and ambiguities in the amount of restitution sought for these items.

Changes to CHC rules

Effective immediately and until further notice, in light of the current events and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation against the threat of COVID-19, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is taking extra precautionary and safety measures to ensure patients and staff remain healthy and protected while at the hospital. At this time, the Commonwealth Health Center is suspending visiting hours and caregiver's chair-side access to patients.

Patients needing special assistance

The suspension includes caregivers for patients using a wheelchair and other patients needing special assistance. Nurses will be assisting patients needing special assistance.

Patients at Dialysis Clinic

The suspension includes caregivers for patients on dialysis. To promote social-distancing, we will not be allowing more than five people to be in the waiting area while patient is receiving. Other visitors while a patient is in active treatment are currently not allowed, most especially for patients in isolation.

Patients admitted to Pediatric Unit

For parents of a minor admitted to the Pediatric Unit, only one parent or caregiver

will be allowed to stay in the room. Parent or caregiver will not be allowed to leave the room or be replaced by another person.

Patients admitted to Labor and Delivery Unit and Obstetrics Unit

Only expecting mothers will be allowed in labor delivery unit and obstetrics unit.

Chapel and Morgue

Only 10 family members will be allowed in the chapel at a time.

CHCC wants to assure families that patients are our priority. Additional nurses will assist with the care of your loved ones. To get updates regarding your family member, call the CHCC operator who will transfer your call to the respective unit.

To obtain information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1542/1672/1352/1854. These numbers are available 24/7.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Care Line at 285-1856/1857. These numbers are available Monday to Friday 7:30am-4:30pm.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950. (PR)

'24-hour operation increasingly challenging for CUC'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the economic crisis brought by the coronavirus pandemic, it's becoming more and more financially challenging for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to operate 24 hours a day, according to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho.

When asked if there is any plan to cut CUC employees' biweekly 80 work hours schedule, Camacho said last Wednesday he still needs to work with the board of directors about that since they still need to operate a large infrastructure—water, wastewater, and power transmission, distribution, and generation.

"There's still a huge responsibility to ensure that all of that is operational," he said in an interview.

He said that keeping utility services available all the time 24 hours a day is "obviously overwhelming," but that they understand the need to do so.

Camacho said they are already implementing austerity measures—he did not specify what those measures are—but

reduction in work hours is just an extreme or expanded cost-cutting measure. At present, CUC is the only agency that's not cutting work hours among government and autonomous agencies.

Camacho said that, right now, in his talks with CUC's chief financial officer about the earlier cost-cutting measures, they were able to sustain



Camacho

their operation budget at a bare minimum.

He said they believe that, at some point, they will have to

cut work hours, adding that this is just something that they're reviewing at the management level. He said they would reduce the work hours as needed, but he could not determine that now.

"But, of course, like any-

thing else, we would always try to minimize any impact to our employees and to our consumers as far as available services [are concerned]. We would like to be open five days a week," he said.

Camacho said that, if any measures were taken, it would be, at the bare minimum, a reduction of eight hours per week, and then they would expand that as needed. "But again, it's something that we have to look into. And we're preparing. We have plans for it already," he added.

Manglona denies Russian national's request to appear in court personally

In light of the U.S. District for the NMI's temporary closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday denied "at this time" accommodation to a Russian national's request to appear personally in the courthouse in connection with his lawsuit against the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Manglona vacated the telephonic status conference set for yesterday, Monday, in Mi-

lan Fargo's lawsuit and reset it to an unspecified date when the court reopens.

Last Feb. 26, Fargo furnished the court with a copy of his email correspondence with assistant attorney general Jessica Wessling, who is assigned to the case. The court then filed those documents as a notice and status report. The court also scheduled a telephonic status conference to discuss the current status of FEMA's renewed process-

ing of Fargo's debt and status of any waiver application, if filed. Subsequently, Fargo informed the court that he is unable to appear telephonically.

Manglona ordered FEMA to inform Fargo and the court via email of any deadline for the waiver application with FEMA.

In July 2019, Manglona dismissed all claims except one in Fargo's lawsuit against FEMA for allegedly finding him ineligible for some or all

of the FEMA funds provided after Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan in 2015.

Manglona found that Fargo has stated a claim on which relief may be granted, but only as to FEMA's determination that he was ineligible for disaster assistance after Typhoon Soudelor.

Manglona said Fargo has alleged a plausible excuse for failing to lodge an administrative appeal within the agency's time frame.

Fargo, in a pro se complaint (filed without a lawyer), said the action of FEMA is illegal when in its letter dated Nov. 13, 2017, told him that his debt is now final. The letter says FEMA provided Fargo funds as a result of his application for disaster assistance. FEMA said it conducts audits of disaster assistance payments. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Torres on small boats: No access beyond reef

Only the Garapan Fishing Base boat ramp will be open for small boats, which will only be allowed to operate within the lagoon.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres made this announcement yesterday, as a response to a growing confusion in the community following reports that several boat ramps and docks—Sugar Dock, Garapan Fishing Base, Smiling Cove Marina, and the Tanapag Ramp—will be closed until further notice.

"Small boats will only be allowed to operate within the lagoon; no access beyond the reef," the governor added.

Torres explained that, due to the escalation of the COV-

ID-19 situation in the CNMI, government resources are being redirected to assist with COVID-19 response and operation.

"As a result, boating safety operations and response will be limited in the lagoon. We do not have access or the capacity to respond to any emergency or distress calls beyond the lagoon, hence the boat restriction," he said.

Aside from restrictions on boating and lagoon operations, all public beaches, parks, including pathways will also be closed to the public.

The governor added that the restriction may be revised, once full capacity can be restored for boating safety. **(Iva Maurin)**

Guam war claims legislation gets fix

» Updated law authorizes US Treasury to issue payments to Guam war claims recipients

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary David Bernhardt applauds President Trump signing H.R. 1365, which makes technical corrections to the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act. This legislation, passed by the House and Senate, authorizes the U.S. Department of the Treasury to issue payments to survivors of Guam's occupation by Imperial Japanese Forces during World War II.

"This action will bring to close a dark chapter for the people of Guam," said Bernhardt. "We are pleased for the remaining survivors and their families. This is just another example of the support that President Trump and his administration continue to provide for American families in the territories."

"Interior has worked closely with the White House, Treasury, Guam [Delegate] Michael San Nicolas, Guam Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero, and others in support of making these fixes and passing this legislation," said Douglas Domenech, Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs. "We are pleased to see this result for the remaining survivors and their families who have been waiting for a very long time."

Under Guam's Organic Act (U.S. Code Title 48), federal income taxes, known as Section 30 taxes, are derived from active members of the U.S. Armed Forces and pensions paid to retired civilian and military employees of the United States who reside in Guam. Every year, these Section 30 taxes are "covered-over" or sent to the government of Guam to

support their operations, activities, and programs. The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, on behalf of the federal government, advances the Section 30 taxes to Guam each year in September.

Under the original act, a mechanism was authorized to establish a "Guam World War II Claims Fund" at Treasury using a portion of the funds collected under Section 30 of Guam's Organic Act. However, the act was written in a way that did not include the necessary legal mechanism authorizing Treasury to pay adjudicated

claims from the Fund to compensable victims and Guam descendants as intended.

The funds available for the Guam World War II Claims Fund are derived by calculating amounts above a 2014 base threshold established by the act. Every September, OIA withholds the amount calculated for the Guam World War II Claims Fund from the annual Section 30 advance payment made to Guam each year.

As signed by President Trump, H.R. 1365 authorizes Treasury to distribute funds that have been accumulating in the Guam World War II Claims Fund since 2017 to legal beneficiaries in Guam. **(PR)**

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/FACILITIES-002

NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 29, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

"SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF A 25-TON AIR-CONDITIONING IN THE OXYGEN GENERATING ROOM"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO RFP'S TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

***MANDATORY ASSESSMENT ON APRIL 8, 2020**
@ 9:00 A.M. SAIPAN TIME @ THE CHCC FACILITY/MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-IFB-19-036, REV. 1

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have previously purchased CUC-IFB-19-036, no purchase is needed but will still have to register in order to receive the package.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-036-Rev.1, Security Guard Services"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 14, 2020**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on March 25, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

PSS suspends meal distribution

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has suspended all meal distributions under its Grab & Go Meal Distribution program until further notice because they lack the manpower to continue due to the recent announcement of COVID-19 cases in the CNMI.

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, many of the volunteers who were helping out during the last three days of meal

distribution no longer want to volunteer because they are afraid. This follows the announcement last Saturday of two positive COVID-19 cases in the CNMI.

"Some of the workers are afraid to come out and continue distributing food to the public. We took that into consideration and it has created a shortage in manpower," he said.

Ada said the Grab & Go program will be discontinued until further notice for all distribution sites, includ-

ing Tinian and Rota.

The Grab & Go Meal Distribution started with 8,000 meal sets or 24,000 meals last Wednesday and delivered 30,000 meals yesterday.

A mother of three finds it saddening because many, like her, have lost their jobs and the meal distribution was a big help since it lessened her stress of thinking of how to feed her children. She understands the situation, though, since those who distributed the food have loved ones too and should also take precautionary measures.

In a public announcement, PSS said it is taking extra precautionary steps to protect its staff and vendors following the confirmation of two positive COVID-19 cases in the CNMI.

"We are doing our part for the community and now it's time for the community to respect our desire to protect ourselves and our families," PSS stated.

Should you have any questions, contact that Child Nutrition Program at (670) 664-3901/3902.

OK'D

From Page 1

checks and jobless benefits for up to nine months.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our economy since February, and I directed our Department of Labor to conduct a study of how our businesses have been negatively impacted, as well as how we can take care of private sector workers. After hearing many con-

cerns from our businesses and their employees, I'm pleased to announce that we are well on our way to implementing the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program to help our people in need," said Torres.

"I thank President [Donald J.] Trump and the [U.S.] Congress for providing this relief for America's workers during this challenging time in our country. This is only the first step in the process, and [Labor] Secretary Vicky Bena-

vente, her staff, and I will work with USDOL to make sure we roll out this relief package for laid-off employees within our community. Please be on the look-out for future announcements on this program soon," he added.

Benavente said that CNMI DOL received the notice last week from the U.S. Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Program administrator Gay M. Gilbert regarding the PUA program.

"The CNMI DOL estimates

about 2,000-3,000 individuals will be eligible to apply for the new PUA program as part of the COVID-19 response. We sent the agreement that Gov. Torres signed to USDOL immediately after the governor signed, and we are looking forward to receiving additional guidance from USDOL ETA within the next day or so. Application period will be announced shortly thereafter, and the public will be informed on how to apply," said Benavente. (PR)

CURFEW

From Page 1

responders, and private sector employees whose work schedule falls within the curfew hours.

"Those that are exempted are law enforcement officers, first responders, private sector employees on duty during curfew hours, they will be the only person allowed to leave their home anytime after 7pm, and before 6am. Violators will be cited according to law," Torres said.

This new directive expands the scope of the curfew the governor has ordered for all

minors a week ago, under Directive No. 2020-005, in line with the declaration of the state of public health emergency in the CNMI, following the growing COVID-19 cases in Guam.

The curfew is part of the social distancing policy being enforced across the CNMI, to limit the rise of new COVID-19 infections in the Marianas.

Dr. Elizabeth Kohnen, of the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., also stressed the importance of social distancing and following hygiene protocols to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 threat on the islands.

"Don't assume that it is just in one place. Assume it's ev-

erywhere. Everyone needs to be careful. Everyone needs to stay home. Everyone needs to wash their hands. It is not just in one neighborhood. It is everywhere. Assume it's everywhere," Kohnen said. "A lot of people don't have symptoms. Even if you feel well, you need to wash your hands. Don't touch your face, don't touch your mouth, don't touch your nose. Wash common surfaces. Assume everyone has it. Assume that you have it. Protect other people you are near with, and make sure that they are protecting themselves as well."

The governor reiterated yesterday the call for every-

one to stay home, stressing that it is being done for only one purpose—for everyone's protection. "I will constantly change it to make it stricter for your protection. It's not about convenience, it's about saving your life," he said.

There is an exception for those going to the hospital, especially those dialysis patients. "So I want to acknowledge that there's a question or concern about dialysis patients. Regardless what time you come in, or what time you leave, you are exempted and those providers where there's transportation or family members that will be taking you to your dialysis timeframe."

TRUMP

From Page 1

about the country reopening in a few weeks. From the Rose Garden, he said his Easter revival hopes had only been "aspirational."

The initial 15-day period of social distancing urged by the federal government expires Monday and Trump had expressed interest in relaxing the national guidelines at least in parts of the country less afflicted by the pandemic. He instead decided to extend them through April 30, a tacit acknowledgment he'd been too optimistic. Many states and local governments have stiffer controls in place on mobility and gatherings.

Trump's impulse to reopen the country met a sober reality check Sunday from Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top

infectious disease expert, who said the U.S. could experience more than 100,000 deaths and millions of infections from the pandemic. That warning hardened a recognition in Washington that the struggle against the coronavirus will not be resolved quickly even as Trump expressed a longing for normalcy.

"I want our life back again," the president told reporters.

Trump, who has largely avoided talk of potential death and infection rates, cited projection models that said potentially 2.2 million people or more could have died had social distancing measures not been put in place. And he said the country would be doing well if it "can hold" the number of deaths "down to 100,000." He said the best case for the country would be for the death rate to peak in about two weeks.

"It's a horrible number," Trump said, but added, "We

all together have done a very good job."

Brought forward by Trump at the outdoor briefing, Fauci said his projection of a potential 100,000 to 200,000 deaths is "entirely conceivable" if not enough is done to mitigate the crisis. He said that helped shape the extension of the guidelines, which he called "a wise and prudent decision."

Americans are now being called on to prepare for another 30 days of severe economic and social disruption, as schools and businesses are closed and public life is upended. One in 3 Americans remain under state or local government orders to stay at home to slow the spread of the virus.

Trump acknowledged that he may be forced to extend the guidelines again at the end of April, but expressed hope that by June 1, "we should be well on our way to recovery."

MAN

From Page 1

the positive case did not happen at the Commonwealth Health Center nor while attending a faith-based activity.

Muña said the victim was not one of the two who have been found positive for COVID-19. In fact, CHCC is still awaiting the result of the test that the Guam Public Health laboratory did on a specimen taken from the man and CHC had submitted for testing. Additionally, Muña assured that the Guam Public Health lab is making the test a priority as soon as it is available.

The individual was seen at the CHC last March 25, and was considered a "person under investigation" based on clinical determination. CHC issued an order of quarantine for the patient and his wife to be cared for at Kanoa Resort, which is the designated quarantine location.

"Unfortunately, he had an underlying multiple medical condition. A treatment plan was offered, but the next of kin opted for comfort care at the hotel, which was adequately provided," said Muña. "Please allow the family to grieve and give them some time," she added, adding that CHCC will be meeting with the family personally when they are ready.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and family and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios also extended their condolences to the patient's wife and family.

"We are deeply, deeply saddened by the passing of our community member," said Torres. "Our thoughts are with the deceased's family during this difficult time."

Torres emphasized that the community must take courage and continue to play their part to fight the virus. Torres applauded the doctors, nurses, medical workers, first responders, and law enforcement for continuing to keep the community safe.

"I want to also thank our business partners, store owners, and workers for providing the necessary necessities for our community," he added.

Kanoa Resort ventilation

Warren Villagomez, chairman of the governor's COVID-19 Task Force, confirmed that before they chose Kanoa Resort as a quarantine site, the engineering team that is part of the task force had determined that the air conditioning system at the hotel does not recirculate air; instead, it is a direct flow.

"It is safe and sound to be at the quarantine site," he said.

14-day mandatory quarantine

Villagomez stated that after an individual has fulfilled their 14-day mandatory quarantine, they will still continue to get monitored through the text illness monitoring system.

According to Dr. Elizabeth Kohnen, medical director of the Family Care Clinic, if an individual spent 14 days and have not had symptoms and no new exposures, they will not be monitored and will go home and take extra precautionary measures to not get exposed again.

Kohnen assured that there is medical care and medical staff available at Kanoa Resort, and, although the facility is not a hospital, if an individual does need hospital care they will be brought to CHC.

"We're being very careful to keep people on various floors so that they are separated that way," she said.

According to Muña, contact investigation happens as soon as an individual comes into the facility and are currently doing more testing today.

New specimens have been sent

Muña stated there have been 20 specimens that were sent to Guam's Public Health lab. There are currently 11 pending.

"The Guam Public Health lab assured that they are going to make our testing a priority," she said.

Torres also emphasized that he is in contact with Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero every day and she has assured him that Guam will be assisting the CNMI even though they have very limited resources and the ability to test.

The two individuals who did test positive for COVID-19 are doing well and are in isolation, according to Kohnen.

Two more tested positive for COVID-19 in Guam

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 20 individuals for COVID-19 yesterday and that two tested positive and 18 tested negative. The DPHSS overall count also includes two positive cases that were tested by the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego.

That leaves Guam with a total of 58 positive case for COVID-19, seven recoveries, and one death.

Torres sends wish-list to Kilili: Congressional action needed

Faced with a drastic drop in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Torres administration has identified its Settlement Agreement obligations on the CNMI's pension program as its largest and "most concerning" obligation and has sought the help of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in finding a congressional solution.

The Settlement Fund that was established as a result of this agreement provides for mandatory minimum payments to the fund to ensure continued benefits for the CNMI government's retirees. This year, the \$44 million obligation is the largest single item of the Commonwealth's budget, the administration said in a statement.

Torres' appeal for Sablan's help is in addition to his numerous requests for federal assistance to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the Marianas and is outlined in a letter of recommendations of measures that require congressional action.

In his letter to Sablan, Torres said that efforts have been made to safeguard the Settlement Agreement payment while allowing flexibility within the CNMI's finances for this trying period.

"Through the constitutionally-authorized Pension Obligation Bond vehicle, the shifting of this judgment obligation to a long-term debt service obligation would provide greater levels of resiliency to manage cyclical downturns in the economy or unexpected shocks to our community in the form of natural disasters or, as we see now, global pandemics.

"The CNMI however, cannot at this time, offer the financial markets the security necessary to obtain affordable financing options. This is due to the structural deficiencies of our economy that are inherent in a location the size and nature of ours, and the persistent risks of external threats such as typhoons, tourism volatility, and negative ramifications of federal government actions and policy.

"In meeting these obligations, Congress can support the alleviation of this large obligation while allowing the CNMI government the opportunity to undertake additional structural reforms. Congressional action should also seek to allow for a federal guarantee to backstop our efforts to obtain financing to support our retirees. A federal guarantee of CNMI pension obligation bonds may give the market greater confidence in lending the necessary resources to the CNMI government so we may prioritize

limited funding to supporting other critical public services."

100% federal match for Medicaid funds

"Increasing Medicaid funds is a significant lifeline to the majority of our population and enhances the critical access to health care services in response to this health crisis. For the CNMI, however, this is both a health crisis and a financial crisis. Increasing the amount available for CNMI Medicaid beneficiaries creates a larger base for which limited local resources are required to match. Even at a reduced local share, increasing the total amount available, while the necessary measure to take, continues to impact the CNMI government's finances, which should equally be of concern to Congress.

"I ask that in addition to increased Medicaid funding to the territories, the territories receive these funds at 0% local match for a duration of time so that the population continues to receive the critical health care services they need while recognizing that the economic collapse we currently experience does not impede that access."

100% federal match for FEMA projects

"Eliminating the local share for [Federal Emergency Management Agency] programs provided in response to Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut are necessary to reduce the financial burden on the Commonwealth government, while allowing for economic activity to continue, employment to grow in the related sectors, and for local funds to be appropriated to critical functions of government."

Increase Capital Improvement Program and Technical Assistance funds to OIA

"Allowing for additional funds to be available in the Department of [the] Interior, Office of Insular Affairs' budget for the territories under the Technical Assistance Program and to the CNMI under the CIP program, is a necessary request to gain critical access to finances that would enable the CNMI to navigate the evolving circumstances posed by the COVID-19 outbreak. Further, I reiterate my previous request to increase the CIP appropriation to adjust for inflation.

"During this time of financial hardship, I request that you push for a similar allowance given to the American Samoan government to use the CIP allotment to cover some operational expenses of

the CNMI government. We wish to obtain the freedom to work with OIA in utilizing these funds to offset recurring obligations of the Commonwealth government."

Forgive federal student loans for taxpayers in the CNMI

"What is at the heart of our financial difficulties is a significantly diminished consumer demand due to the collapse of our tourism industry. To increase overall demand, removing the encumbrances on our population's disposable income is of absolute necessity. Congress should provide an avenue for complete student loan forgiveness for all residents of the CNMI and U.S. territories who have obtained federal financing for education under 20 U.S.C. 1087(a) et seq."

Provide 100% federal cover-over for the Earned Income Tax Credit

"The CNMI needs more external resources to reach the hands of our population in order to mitigate the effects of lost income and wages from the collapse of our tourism industry. Congress should quickly allow for a 100% federal cover-over of Earned Income Tax Credit payments made in the upcoming tax filings so that residents can offset the damage caused to individual finances during this crisis. Anything less than 100% would represent a severe burden to an already over-burdened fiscal scenario and threatens the viability of our government's financial stability and should be avoided."

Ensure refundable and nonrefundable credits created in response provide a cover-over of funds to the CNMI Treasury

"As the CNMI's representa-

tive to Congress, I am asking for your diligence in ensuring that any credit (refundable or nonrefundable) created in response to the COVID-19 outbreak do not negatively impact the CNMI's finances. As you are aware, as a mirror-code jurisdiction, the CNMI adopts the provisions created within the Internal Revenue Code. If a credit is created to mitigate the economic impacts of this crisis, that credit must contain provisions to provide for a federal cover-over of funds from the U.S. Treasury to the CNMI Treasury. A lack of vigilance in this matter could greatly worsen the CNMI's financial position and impact our ability to provide critical services to our people."

Amend U.S. Public Law 115-218

"We must be cognizant of the extent to which this crisis has crippled the CNMI economy. Action should be taken in this opportunity to recognize the economic impact the CW-1 program has on our future economic growth opportunities and amend provisions of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act that will further impede our economic recovery.

"I ask that you include a complete elimination of the requirement for CW-1 employees to return to their country of origin for a 30-day period prior to submitting a renewal petition for the third renewal period. This loss of a quarter of our workforce during this period will result in a tremendous reduction in productivity and revenue for employers and will most certainly lead to even greater business closures in the months ahead.

"Further, we must recognize the need to eliminate the prohibition on construction workers under the CW-1 program in its entirety as we will require access to construction

trades to undertake development and redevelopment projects to rebuild sectors of our economy that were not impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu, but have been impacted by this outbreak.

"Additionally, we must recognize the significance of this downturn in the business cycle and allow for the prevailing wage determination to be eliminated for this fiscal year so that businesses can make the necessary personnel adjustments within the private sector to keep the current level of employment steady. Already, due to the effects of this outbreak, unemployment has surged as businesses are forced to close their doors in an effort to halt the spread of this disease. Increasing the cost of labor at this timeframe will destroy opportunities for employees throughout our labor force and result in further delays in our recovery."

Increase federal funding opportunities for PSS

"The CNMI government's revenues do not provide the adequate levels of funding to support our Public School System. Even after providing 25% of their constitutionally-mandated share of general revenues, the current economic conditions are not producing sufficient financial resources to ensure adequate funding for our students. There is no way around this fact.

"I ask that we do all we can to increase the amount of funding available to our PSS and provide for greater flexibility in the use of these funds so that our school administrators have the resources to provide the best for our students during these difficult times.

Expedite grants

"The CNMI must make every effort to push forward with

available federal resources to increase economic activity and stimulate employment within our islands. The CDBG-DR program provides these resources; however, states across the nation have recognized the obstacles created by federal law that slow the release of these funds. To provide expediency for the release of this program's benefits, I request that Congress do the following:

■ "Remove the restriction on the use of these funds for purposes tied directly to covered disasters so these resources can be mobilized in support of recovery from this most recent disaster

■ "Waive NEPA compliance requirements for activities funded by this program

■ "Reduce the standard requirements for Citizen Participation related to the Action Plan."

Torres closed his letter with a renewed call for teamwork and collaboration for the greater good of the CNMI during this public health and global economic crisis

"This is a disaster of unprecedented proportions for the CNMI. As such, the needs of the community are constantly evolving. Above all, I ask for your cooperation in continuing productive dialogue as it relates to the needs of our people and this government. This administration is doing its utmost to avert a greater disaster if we do not adequately respond to the multitude of issues presenting themselves today.

"There's too much at stake for our people and our islands. However, I am confident that if I can get your support to push these necessary measures in Congress, we will be better positioned to help every individual and family in the Marianas get through these tough and unprecedented times." (PR)



SEABEES ON TINIAN

TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—Equipment Operator 2nd Class Scott Valente, deployed with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5's Detail Tinian, operates a dozer to prepare for future projects on the island of Tinian. NMCB-5 is deployed across the Indo-Pacific region conducting high-quality construction to support U.S. and partner nations to strengthen partnerships, deter aggression, and enable expeditionary logistics and naval power projection.

U.S. NAVY/SENIOR CHIEF CONSTRUCTIONMAN WILLIAM CONZO

'Please take this seriously; stay home'

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appealed yet again to everyone in the CNMI to take the social distancing directive seriously and to stay home. Following the announcement of two positive COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth, Torres reiterated the importance of staying home to help diminish the spread of the novel coronavirus on the islands.

"With the challenges that

we have in front of us and for our community, please take this seriously—stay home. Stop social gathering. That includes the beach, that includes other parks, walkways. Folks, we've done so much to protect you and your families. All we ask is for you to cooperate," the governor said.

Over the last few months, the government has been



Torres

implementing measures related to the threat of COVID-19, starting in Jan. 29, when Torres declared a state of significant emergency in the CNMI.

Flights were monitored, and consultations with the business sector transpired to see how the economic downturn, brought about by the significant drop in the number of tourists on

the islands, could affect not just businesses but also employees.

In February, banks were asked to grant loan deferments for residents.

"Over the last few months, as a Commonwealth, we have done a lot to stop the spread of COVID-19 here on our islands. Efforts increased over the last few weeks through the COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.," the governor added.

The CNMI was placed under state of public health emergency and continuing state of significant emergency in March, which necessitated government shutdown, the closure of *man'amko* centers, and the suspension of public schools.

"To the people of the CNMI, we have done everything we could to be proactive as a government, as business partners in this community, and implement strict social distancing procedures to keep you, your families, our *man'amko*, and our loved ones with pre-existing illnesses safe," Torres said. "We have closed down all schools, both public and private, restrict hours of public accommodations, and implement curfew for minors under 18 years of age. In addition to our active airport surveillance, we have enforced mandatory

quarantine procedures, screening all travelers, including residents inbound to the CNMI."

Hundreds of first responders from the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Division of Customs have been deployed to help in the COVID-19 efforts.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, too, was enlisted to provide for mass-care service at Kanoa Resort, which serves as the quarantine facility on the island.

Assistance from the federal government has been requested, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to mobilize federal resources to aid in the CNMI government's response to this pandemic.

Everyone in the Marianas is encouraged to:

■ **PLEASE STAY HOME** and avoid unnecessary travel as much as possible.

■ **WORK OR DO SCHOOL—WORK FROM HOME** whenever possible and reasonable.

■ **AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS** in groups of more than 10.

■ **USE DRIVE-THRU, TAKE-OUT, or DELIVERY OPTIONS** when buying food from a restaurant.

■ **CONTINUE PRACTICING GOOD HYGIENE:**

Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.

Avoid touching your face.

Disinfect frequently used items (cellphones, computers, household items) as much as possible.

■ **IF YOU FEEL SICK or IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOME IS SICK**, please contact your personal doctor or call the COVID-19 INFO LINE at 285-1352, 1542, 1672, or 1854.

■ **IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON (MAN'AMKO)**, you are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. Please stay home and away from other people as much as possible.

■ **IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A PREEXISTING ILLNESS (such as ASTHMA, DIABETES, AND HEART DISEASE)**, you are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.

Rumor control—stop the

Stay at home, stop the spread

spread of misinformation

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official

and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

USCIS sets flexibility for requests for evidence, notices of intent to deny

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is adopting measures to minimize the immigration consequences associated with responding to requests for evidence, or RFEs, and notices of intent to deny, NOIDs, dated between March 1 and May 1, 2020.

For applicants and petitioners who receive an RFE or NOID dated between March 1 and May 1, 2020, any responses submitted within 60 calendar days after the response deadline set forth in the RFE or NOID will be considered

by USCIS before any action is taken.

Education and precautions are the strongest tools against infection. Continue to practice good health habits, refrain from handshakes or hugs as greetings, and wash hands and clean surfaces appropriately.

USCIS will provide further updates as the situation develops and will continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance. Please visit uscis.gov/coronavirus for the latest facts and other USCIS updates. (PR)

FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS, STUDENTS

Free videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more

MANGILAO, Guam—Educators, parents and students are being encouraged to consider using PBS LearningMedia as you are developing your plans for learning at home.

PBS LearningMedia is a free resource for PreK-12 educators that supports distance learning. It can be accessed by teachers, parents and students by creating a free account at <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/>.

Collections contain lesson plans and supplemental materials for grades PreK - 12, all aligned to state and national standards, and easily searchable by grade level, subject matter, standards, and key content words.

Ina Carillo, PBS Guam general manager said, "Many lesson plans and supplemental resources in this collection can be printed, and completed by watching program episodes on television, or videos online."

The resources can also be easily integrated with digital classroom management sys-

tems. "This service has been launched and implemented nationally and we felt that now, more than ever, our community could use these resources in the home setting while observing home isolation during this COVID19 pandemic," Carillo said.

As teachers, students, and families deal with school closures from the COVID19 pandemic, PBS LearningMedia producers and educators have come together to curate a special collection of resources organized by grade and subject area. Find videos, lesson plans, and activities that support learning at home. Create a free account to save and organize content. For educators, we've assembled packets of printable activities to download and share with parents and students. Educators and parents can plan and adapt lessons in creative ways, using the Lesson Builder tool, Google Classroom, Remind feature, and more. (PR)

Guam volunteers needed to make masks and face shields for health care workers

HAGATÑA, Guam—A local community group seeks volunteers to make Personal Protective Equipment to be donated to Guam's health care professionals, first responders, and others at high risk of contracting Covid-19.

The group, *PPE for Guam*, particularly seeks volunteers with sewing experience, or any volunteer with a 3D printer. In collaboration with Guam Memorial Hospital, Guam Regional Medical City, the Office of Civil Defense, local 3D-printing firm Gudwood, and the University of Guam, PPE for Guam recently developed do-it-yourself plans for sewn face masks and 3D-printed face shields that can be made at home, and which are preferred by local medical professionals.

These DIY PPE will be utilized should traditional PPE run out. According to an article published this week in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, hospitals nationwide are already reporting a worrisome shortage of PPE, including masks and face shields. The consequences can be dire:

In Italy, health care workers experienced high rates

of infection and death partly because of inadequate access to PPE. And recent estimates here in the United States suggest that we will need far more respirators and surgical masks than are currently available.

"The local response has been inspiring," said Allison Rutter, a local engineer and co-founder of the group. "In two weeks, we've developed multiple prototypes, tested them in local hospitals, and finalized preferred designs. Now we're looking to expand with more volunteers," she added. *PPE for Guam's* designs are based on open-source solutions that were developed for the coronavirus pandemic and have already been implemented in other hospitals.

"With worldwide shortages of lifesaving protective gear, it is critical to be proactive, but it is also critical to produce reliable, high-quality safety equipment. *PPE for Guam* has done a great job partnering with health care professionals, engineers, and scientists to help guide this effort, and I encourage everyone to contribute in whatever way you can to their efforts to keep our community safe," said Dr. Dave

Weingarten, chairman of the Department of Surgery, Guam Memorial Hospital.

PPE for Guam will work closely with the Office of Civil Defense to donate PPE to healthcare workers, first responders, and others at high risk of contracting Covid-19. "We truly appreciate the initiative and hard work from the volunteers at *PPE for Guam* in helping us fill critical PPE shortages experienced throughout the island and the nation. Currently our priority of PPE fill is medical health professionals and first responders. With this donation, we can start equipping support personnel who have been in the fight since day one and fulfilling outstanding requests for resources. The effort here truly embodies a whole of the community approach to emergencies," said Charles Esteves, administrator, Office of Civil Defense.

"We need to prepare for things getting much worse," said Cyrus Luhr, co-founder of *PPE for Guam*. The CDC recommends the use of emergency, homemade PPE as a last resort when traditional, commercial PPE is unavail-

able. "If Guam experiences the same shortage of PPE that other places around the country are witnessing, the protective gear that volunteers make now may literally save lives," he added.

The University of Guam will also be contributing its expertise and 3D printers to the cause. "It is great to see how our community is coming together through collaborations like this," said UOG president Thomas Krise. "Just last week, we were discussing how we can use our 3D printers to help provide much needed personal protective equipment to our frontline health care personnel. And now we have another way that UOG is able to help in the response efforts."

PPE for Guam welcomes anyone interested in learning more about volunteering opportunities to visit www.PPEforGuam.com or facebook.com/groups/PPEforGuam for additional information and guidance on how to get started. "Making PPE from home is a great way to get involved and make a difference. This is our chance to protect those who protect us," added Luhr. (PR)

Quarantine violators will be arrested, imprisoned

The Commonwealth government warned Friday that anyone who does not comply with the mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement for arriving travelers will be arrested and imprisoned or fined \$500.

This measure will be enforced by local law enforcement, in coordination with the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and the COVID-19 Task Force.

"Violators of this important protective measure will receive a maximum of no more than a year imprisonment and/or no more than a \$500 fine, as provided under law," said a statement Friday from the Office of the Governor.

This mandatory 14-day quarantine is being enforced given the importance of protecting the CNMI's small island community, the statement added.

All individuals entering the CNMI have been ordered to quarantine at a designated site for 14 days, starting last Monday, March 23, 2020, pursuant to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' Second Amended Executive Order 2020-04, Directive 8,

Incoming travelers will also be enrolled into the Text Illness Monitoring system, which alerts Commonwealth Health Center staff when enrollees report symptoms.

Why quarantine?

Quarantine in a facility for 14

High risk of rip currents until Thursday

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents through Thursday afternoon along east facing reefs.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, there will be a persistent larger trade-wind swell the next several days. Breaking surf of 8 to 10 feet will continue to create dangerous rip currents along reef lines and exposed shore-

days is necessary because exposure to COVID-19 may not become apparent until 14 days after a person is infected. This is also known as the "incubation period" of the disease.

Travelers coming into the CNMI from COVID-19 affected areas such as Guam, Hawaii, Korea, China, Japan, and the Philippines may have been exposed to the disease. For the protection of the public, these individuals are quarantined and closely monitored for the full incubation period to prevent the spread of the disease.

What about health clearance?

Individuals who present a health certificate certifying that they tested negative for COVID-19 in the previous 72 hours may be considered for exemption from quarantine, but this certificate must be reviewed at the quarantine site.

Only health certificates, issued by a recognized health agency, indicating that the individual was tested negative for COVID-19 will be honored. For example, travelers from Guam must present a health certificate indicating a negative test for COVID-19 issued by the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services within 72 hours of travel.

A health certificate alone lines facing east.

Strong and frequent rip currents can pull even the best swimmer out to sea. Inexperienced swimmers should stay out of the water. Strong rip currents will be life threatening along east facing reefs. If you become caught in a rip current, stay afloat while waiting for help. If you have to swim out of a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. (PR)

does not guarantee exemption. All individuals, even those requesting exemption, must go to the quarantine site after arriving on Saipan.

What is quarantine?

Quarantine is when the movement of an individual, or a group of individuals, is limited after possible exposure to a communicable disease, for a time period equal to the longest incubation period of the disease. This is done to prevent transmission of a disease to others. In the case of COVID-19, this is especially important if an individual is coughing or sneezing. Tiny droplets of fluid from a cough or sneeze can land on surfaces touched by others, and get into healthy people's eyes, nose, and mouth, which will make them sick.

I'm scheduled to fly into Saipan soon. What should I expect?

All incoming travelers and their luggage will be escorted by staff of the Commonwealth Office of Transportation Authority, the CNMI Office of

Torres outlines how CNMI will benefit from CARES Act

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed his gratitude to President Donald J. Trump and the U.S. Congress for delivering urgent economic support to the CNMI by enacting the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act into law on March 27, 2020.

With the enactment of the CARES Act, the CNMI will receive more of the critical funding it needs to provide greater resources to first responders, support the islands' affected workforce, and help rebuild the economy and support the government resources needed to fund necessary public services.

"In the CARES Act, the territories have the ability to access many of the funding sources available to the 50 states," said Torres. "The new law supports the enhancement, modification and expansion of existing grant programs the CNMI currently avails of."

Torres further noted that it also creates access to federal resources to stem the unanticipated costs of responding to the unprecedented global pandemic.

"Critical among these programs is the creation of the Coronavirus Relief Fund, which appropriated \$150 billion to states, tribal and local governments, and of which \$3 billion is reserved for U.S. territories and the District of Columbia," added Torres. "As the funds are based on population, the CNMI anticipates to receive approximately \$38 million from this direct appropriation."

The act also provides governors the resources to support

Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Department of Fire and Emergency Management Systems, Department of Cultural and Community Affairs, Department of Public Safety, Department of Finance-Division of Customs, and Commerce-Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control directly from the airport to a local hotel serving as the designated quarantine facility. All customs processes and health screening will take place on site at the quarantine facility.

Any health certificates held by travelers will be reviewed, and any symptoms checked and documented by medical personnel on site. From there, persons under orders to quarantine will be checked into the hotel and given details on their stay.

Because the purpose of strict quarantine is to reduce the risk of disease transmission, people under orders to quarantine cannot see family or friends in person during their quarantine; however, each room is equipped with internet and telephone service, and people under orders

to quarantine are encouraged to communicate with family and friends often. Interaction with loved ones is protective of physical and mental health.

Meals will be provided to all those under orders to quarantine, and any special dietary needs or allergies should be communicated at check-in.

Friends and family members may drop off items at the quarantine facility during hours designated by the CNMI Homeland Security. Incoming travelers are strongly discouraged from travelling with any items that require refrigeration.

I am a healthcare worker; do I have to be quarantined?

All new and returning healthcare workers will be assessed according to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Screening Protocol. This protocol is initiated at the quarantine facility. Due to the severity of COVID-19, CHCC needs all HCWs to be available for the community. Coupled with our continuous

shortage of health workers, CHCC, with consultation from regional experts, developed this protocol to allow for the medical clearance of HCWs. HCWs who present a certificate from a recognized health agency indicating a negative COVID-19 test in the last 72 hours of travel and are asymptomatic will be allowed by the CHCC medical team to exit the quarantine location. Asymptomatic HCWs without a valid certificate will be enrolled into a strict daily monitoring plan by the CHCC health team and also allowed to exit. Any symptomatic HCWs will be ordered into quarantine.

Are unaccompanied minors (under 18) exempt from quarantine?

Minors who travel unaccompanied will undergo quarantine at the designated site if they do not have a health certificate. One parent or legal guardian will be allowed to stay with the minor at the designated site. (PR)

Additional guidance will be provided by the Office of the Governor on this program for residents of the Marianas soon.

"Through early analysis of the bill, my team and I already see many ways in which the CNMI community and its government will be supported by this third phase of relief," said Torres. "We have already begun the process of securing agreements and submitting applications for programs through the Economic Development Administration and the Small Business Administration."

"Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I are grateful to the U.S. Congress and President Trump for their support of these efforts and we look forward to their continued engagement and support of the CNMI community, one of the hardest hit American communities as a result of the global outbreak of the COVID-19," added Torres. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo shows Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres posing with U.S. President Donald J. Trump inside the Oval Office.

struggling public education systems encumbered by this crisis. Torres looks forward to working with the Board of Education and the Public School System to make a timely application for support under this provision to ensure CNMI students receive the resources they need to succeed even as the community progresses through these difficult times.

Additionally, the act provides the CNMI access to the 2020 Recovery Rebates for Individuals. These are the so-called "stimulus checks." Since the CNMI mirrors the Internal Revenue Code, payments will be made through the CNMI Treasury with an allowance for these expenses to be covered-back by the federal government to the CNMI Treasury.

■ Individuals earning up to \$75,000 will receive \$1,200.

■ Couples earning up to \$150,000 will receive \$2,400.

■ For every child in the household, you will receive \$500.

■ If you made more than \$75,000, your payment will be reduced by \$5 for every \$100 of income that exceeds the limits. (Example, if you made \$80,000 in 2019, you will receive \$950.)

■ The payment decreases to zero for an individual making \$99,000 or more or a couple making \$198,000 or more.

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 RUMOR CONTROL

There are fake IRS calls being made requesting for bank account information to deposit a stimulus check.

DO NOT GIVE YOUR BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION TO ANYONE OVER THE PHONE.

The IRS will never ask for your bank account information.

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force reminds the Marianas to share only verified and official information.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Karidat closed

Karidat Social Services was closed to the public yesterday, March 30, 2020, as it works to transition its food assistance to curbside distribution. Rental assistance will also be closed, as Karidat develops a new system that is safe for everyone. Please check Karidat's Facebook page for more information. (PR)

4.4M quake in Agrihan

At 12:45pm on March 27 2020, a report of a 4.4-magnitude earthquake occurred 30 kilometers northwest of Agrihan in the Northern Islands of the CNMI. The Pa-

cific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue any tsunami warnings or advisories. For more information, call the CNMI State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

Notice of suspension of programs

The CNMI Energy Division Office is temporarily suspending all program services for the Weatherization Assistance Program and the State Energy Program until further notice. The Division of Energy will announce additional information and updates on program services once office operations resume and return to normal. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Congress is moving fast on a coronavirus economic rescue—for better and worse

With COVID-19 infections and deaths climbing fast, Congress is moving at a remarkable pace to throw an unprecedented amount of federal resources—\$2 trillion in tax dollars and a \$4-trillion boost from the Federal Reserve—at the strained U.S. health care system and the collapsing U.S. economy.

Even better, the two political parties have climbed out of their customary ideological foxholes to provide bipartisan support for approaches that usually divide them. Republicans are lining up behind a record amount of deficit spending, including no-strings-attached cash grants to most Americans. Democrats are agreeing to bail out businesses large and small with handouts and tax breaks. And the obligatory partisan squabbling was over almost as quickly as it started, with the Senate passing the bill unanimously on Wednesday and the House approving it Friday.

The bill is the third in a series of increasingly costly measures to respond to the health and financial effects of the COVID-19 virus. Sadly but not surprisingly, it has its share of unwelcome special-interest provisions that have only tenuous relations with the outbreak. Among them are a \$17-billion loan program seemingly designed to rescue Boeing from the hole it dug for itself with the 737 Max fiasco and a huge tax break for wealthy real estate investors. At least Senate Democrats successfully pushed for more transparency and oversight to help keep the biggest of the loan programs accountable.

The hidden gifts for well-connected interests are coming to light only now, with the bill well on its way to final passage, because of the many shortcuts taken to speed it through Congress. And speed is essential because of the weeks it will take for the grants and loans provided by the bill to be delivered from the Treasury to those who qualify.

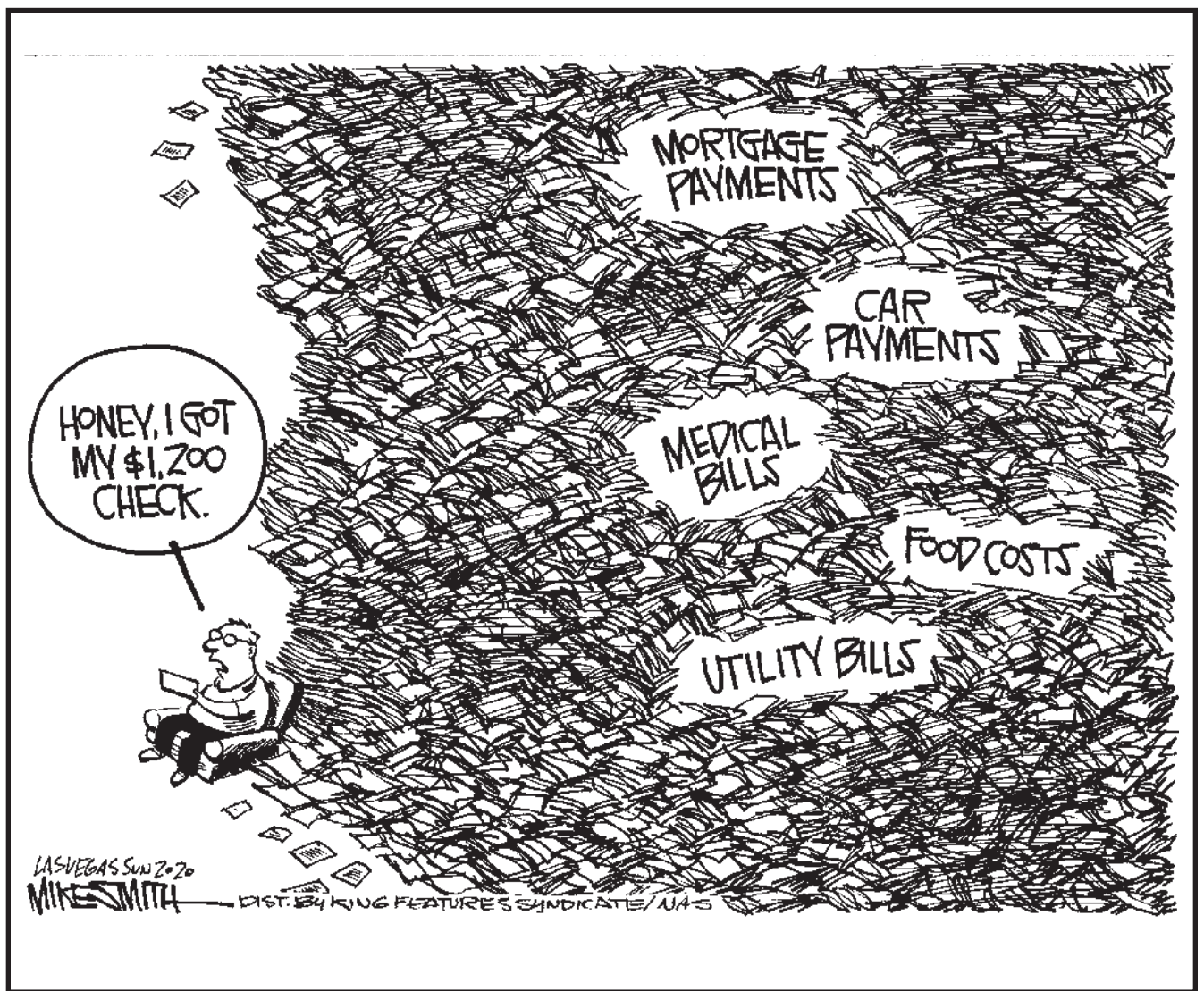
That's the measure's Achilles' heel. The need for the money is already great; witness the shocking surge in claims for unemployment benefits filed last week. By some estimates, the country is on its way to double-digit unemployment, with more people sidelined than in the last recession.

The best features of the bill are the ones that provide a financial cushion to counteract the sharp drop in demand for goods and services. These include grant and loan programs to help companies and nonprofits keep workers on their payrolls, as well as expanded unemployment benefits for those laid off or whose gigs dry up as a result of the outbreak.

The timing of the aid matters, however. According to the California Legislative Analyst's Office, the flood of new unemployment claims could substantially delay the first benefit checks that go out to laid-off workers—in this state, by more than three weeks—unless states streamline their systems. Similar administrative hurdles stand in the way of other rescue provisions.

The sooner the federal dollars start to flow, the more they will mitigate the damage to businesses, families and the economy as a whole. Lawmakers deserve praise for teeing up so much aid in short order, albeit with some indefensible riders. Now it's up to government to get the money flowing quickly and transparently.

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Keep Dr. Fauci at the podium

As living under quarantine conditions during this coronavirus pandemic has turned my web surfing into more of an alternative universe than ever, a significant question has been popping into view in recent days:

"Where's Dr. Fauci?"

Yes, the cult of admirers surrounding Dr. Anthony Fauci, renowned immunologist, is not only thriving but seeking his advice more desperately than ever—even as some among President Donald Trump's supporters on the far-right fringe aren't.

The ongoing sport of catching Trump's falsehoods—more than 16,000, so far, in the Washington Post's Fact Checker database—has taken on a morbidly serious tone as truthfulness in a pandemic can make the difference between life and death.

In response, the president holds daily news briefings that are well worth watching, in my view, as long as Fauci is there. My informal survey of similarly cocooned friends, relatives and workmates finds general agreement. If Fauci's not there, they say, you might as well turn it off.

Of course, in our politically and culturally polarized society I have to remember that I live in a silo comprised disproportionately of liberals and moderates who treat anything Trump says with the skepticism of the old Chicago City News Bureau's slogan: "If your mother says she loves you, check it out."

But in the current national emergency, even prominent Republicans such as Gov. Mike DeWine of Ohio and Gov. Larry Hogan of Maryland sounded alarms over Trump's "wish" to have the economy back up and running by Easter. Too soon, they said.

Fauci agreed. "You've got to be realistic," he told CNN's Chris Cuomo, "and you've got to understand that you don't make the timeline, the virus makes the timeline."

And Fauci kept his job for another day, although significantly he made the statement in a CNN interview, not during the president's regular briefings. He and Trump denied reports of a rift, and Fauci continued to grant numerous interview requests. But his lowered profile seemed to reflect reports that the president was annoyed by his growing popularity, which as you may recall, has spelled the end for other Trump appointees.

Unlike most of them, though, Fauci was inherited. He's been the "Mr. Wizard" or, for you millennials, the Bill Nye the Science Guy of contagions since he became director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in 1984, the middle of President Ronald Reagan's years in office.

By CLARENCE PAGE

Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@chicagotribune.com.



He expresses the qualities that just about everybody wants a good doctor to have. He has the bedside manner that can deliver the most terrible news in a calming, easily understood way, even when it directly contradicts his boss who, in this case, does not take contradiction easily.

But Trump himself cast a troubling cloud of doubt on that sensible course the past week as reports came out saying the president has become annoyed as Fauci has grown bolder in correcting his falsehoods about the spread of the coronavirus.

And, reports The Post, despite his valued service under presidents from both parties, Fauci has come under increasing—and unfair—fire from paranoids on the right fringe who long have fueled a conservative war against science and so-called "deep state" conspiracies.

For example, Peter Barry Chowka, who has been retweeted by Trump on other occasions, recently called Fauci a "Deep-State Hillary Clinton-loving stooge." Others have hint-hinted that perhaps Fauci himself had a hand in creating what Trump, until recent days, called "the Chinese virus."

Such is the low quality of ideological discourse into which some would drag Fauci or anyone else who refuses to subscribe to their wing-nut ideology.

But whether Trump acknowledges it or not, he's better off having Fauci inside his pandemic team's tent than outside. Much to my surprise, Trump has experienced a small improvement in his approval rating, which hit record highs in surveys released this past week by Gallup (49%), Fox (48%), Monmouth University (46%) and Pew (45%).

Those numbers for his handling of the coronavirus outbreak are still slightly better than those he has received for his job performance overall, which have yet to top the 50% mark. But they're a lot better than the numbers he would have if he ends our national social distance too soon.

Remember, Mr. President, the virus sets the timeline.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Protect our first responders

For more than 20 years, in my former role as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's emergency response team, I have worked on several natural and man-made disasters.

I have seen the heroism of men and women during deadly storms and floods.

I've watched the incredible dedication of first responders rushing into the twin towers in New York on 9/11, not knowing if they would ever return home to see their families. I have witnessed the painful search for the missing by exhausted first responders and volunteers.

I have stood by as firefighters fought to contain wildfires in California and prevent chemical explosions in Louisiana.

As Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson once shared, "I've always seen first responders as unsung heroes and very special people because, when everyone else is running away from danger, they run into it."

The American Security Foundation estimates that America has 891,000 emergency medical service professionals, including 600,000 EMTs and 142,000 paramedics. Every day, they provide emergency medical treatment to those injured or acutely ill, transporting more than 16 million patients by ambulance annually.

According to the National Fire Department Registry, there are approximately 1,065,200 firefighters serving in 27,195 fire

departments nationwide, and responding to emergencies from 51,382 fire stations.

New York City is now the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in America. The numbers continue to grow exponentially, and access to medical services is already strained. But the first responders are continuing to do their jobs, putting themselves on the line.

We should not forget our first responders who breathed in dangerous toxic dust for weeks at ground zero in New York City, resulting in thousands of them having long-term chronic health impacts—everything from asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, rhinosinusitis, sleep apnea, respiratory disease and cancer.

Many 9/11 responders have died, or are in hospice care and in other medical facilities. Let us remember our promise when President Donald Trump signed the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, pledging that our brave men and women would never be left alone again.

First responders and local health workers are also bearing public health scars from the impacts of climate change over the past few years. Exposed to significantly longer and more intense periods of air pollutants from fires, firefighters in the Western U.S. are suffering from an increase in respiratory ailments.

During the current COVID-19 crisis, as our doctors, nurses and other health professionals are being utilized in even greater numbers as front-line first responders, we should remember the

By MUSTAFA SANTIAGO ALI

Tribune News Service



Mustafa Santiago Ali is currently the senior vice president for environmental justice at the National Wildlife Federation, after having served at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for more than two decades, ultimately as the agency's assistant associate administrator for environmental justice. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is operated by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

words of Ben Nelson, former Democratic U.S. senator from Nebraska, who said, "Our first responders risk their lives to help others. The least we can do is make sure they have the resources they need to do their jobs."

As more first responders are being exposed to COVID-19, let's make sure they are equipped with the surgical masks, gloves and the additional personal protective equipment they need to meet the threat. And let's start preparing to make sure that they will continue to receive the care they have earned, for the rest of their lives.

Exactly how much power do we really want to give the government right now?

The coronavirus outbreak is becoming a new ideological litmus test, but not the one we all thought it was going to be.

Sure, there's the usual split between the Trumpian right, which has insisted throughout that the problem is under control, and the Pelosian left, which has been writing your grandmother's obituary since late February. That's reinforced by the greater prevalence of the virus in urban areas than in rural ones.

But there's also the gap between people whose businesses, incomes and quality of life are being strangled by the preventive measures some states and cities are imposing, and people who are still working in relative safety whose current circumstances aren't so bleak.

The first group is stunned and alarmed at the raw display of power by governments that are slamming the brakes on commerce and throwing millions of people out of work, all in response to a virus that has sickened and killed far fewer Americans than the flu does every year. The second group looks at the rapidly rising numbers of people infected, hospitalized and killed by COVID-19 and can't understand why anyone would even think of defying the social distancing guidelines.

The groups do not separate along partisan lines; the strongest determinants appear to be the effects the outbreak are having on your livelihood and your circle of friends.

I'm in the latter contingent, working from home alongside a wife and two sons who have managed to keep themselves reasonably busy. And I worry that I'm blithely supporting policies whose long-term benefits seem inarguable but whose short-term costs are more painful than I recognize.

My sister Carol Healey lives in the Bay Area, a hotbed for the coronavirus. Objectively speaking, she's one of the world's best humans, generous and empathetic to an extreme. And she happens to be in the group wondering if the efforts we're making to rein in COVID-19 are causing more harm than the disease itself.

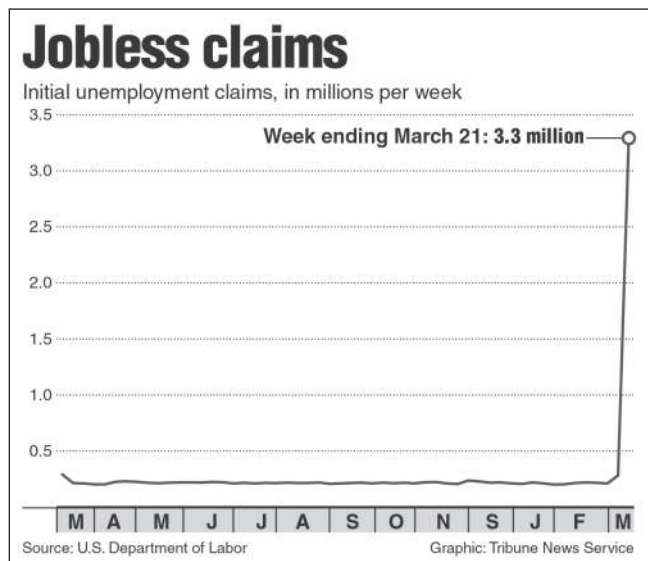
In an email Thursday, she lamented the assumptions we're making about how to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, asking, "Where are the scientific studies of a population practicing frequent hand washing and social distancing but continuing to work at their jobs, to show that they are contracting this virus and spreading it, as compared to persons in shut-down businesses staying home except to walk their dogs, exercise, go to the grocery store and the pharmacy?"

That's a good question, and I think the answer is that it's too early for any studies to have been completed. But the evidence from Japan, which has taken the first approach, suggests that it's

not as effective as it initially seemed—the disease appears to be picking up steam, and local leaders are starting to call for a more stringent approach. And the experience in China and, more recently, Washington state makes clear that clampdowns work.

My sister readily conceded that we have to flatten the curve of coronavirus infections to keep hospitals and clinics from being overrun with patients. But she noted that most people who contract COVID-19 don't need to be hospitalized.

"The people can handle social distancing, wearing gloves if out handling things, and self-quarantine if and when they are sick, coughing or sneezing," she wrote. "People can handle putting off large-crowd events, concerts, sports, etc. The freedom-loving people in this country cannot handle being told they cannot work, cannot leave their homes, or that their business cannot



continue because the public health requires it.

"Keeping us safe is the biggest killer of individual freedom ever invented by lawyers and politicians. It is an excuse used to perpetrate all kinds of oppression and of course enabled the rise of fascism."

All true, and yet job No. 1 for every elected official in this country is to keep people safe. That's especially true of local leaders, who are the ones issuing the guidelines and orders that are keeping most Californians under a loose form of house arrest.

And to me and others on my side of the debate, the threat posed by the novel coronavirus seems far, far greater than the

By JON HEALEY

Los Angeles Times



Jon Healey is the Los Angeles Times' deputy editorial page editor.

other side acknowledges. The flu is not an apt comparison; not only is there no vaccine for COVID-19, there's not even a proven treatment yet (although some may be arriving soon as tests ramp up). Even worse, people who test positive for the disease are being hospitalized at a rate that's alarmingly high and growing. According to the COVID Tracking Project site, one out of eight people who has tested positive in the United States has wound up in the hospital. And that may be an undercount, because not every state that reports test results is disclosing COVID-19 hospitalizations.

As the number of COVID-19 patients in severe respiratory distress grows, hospitals will run out of intensive care beds. That means doctors and nurses will have to start deciding who will get potentially life-saving care and who won't—not just among COVID-19 cases, but every victim of a potentially fatal injury or illness. Some systems are already preparing for that eventuality.

That's why folks in my camp believe the first task is to beat this virus, even if doing so requires economically painful but necessary measures such as mandatory social distancing. In the meantime, Congress needs to do the sort of thing it's doing right now, directing massive amounts of financial aid to the people and businesses whose livelihoods are being crushed.






But it's not an easy call, not by any stretch of the imagination. I'll give my sister the last words:

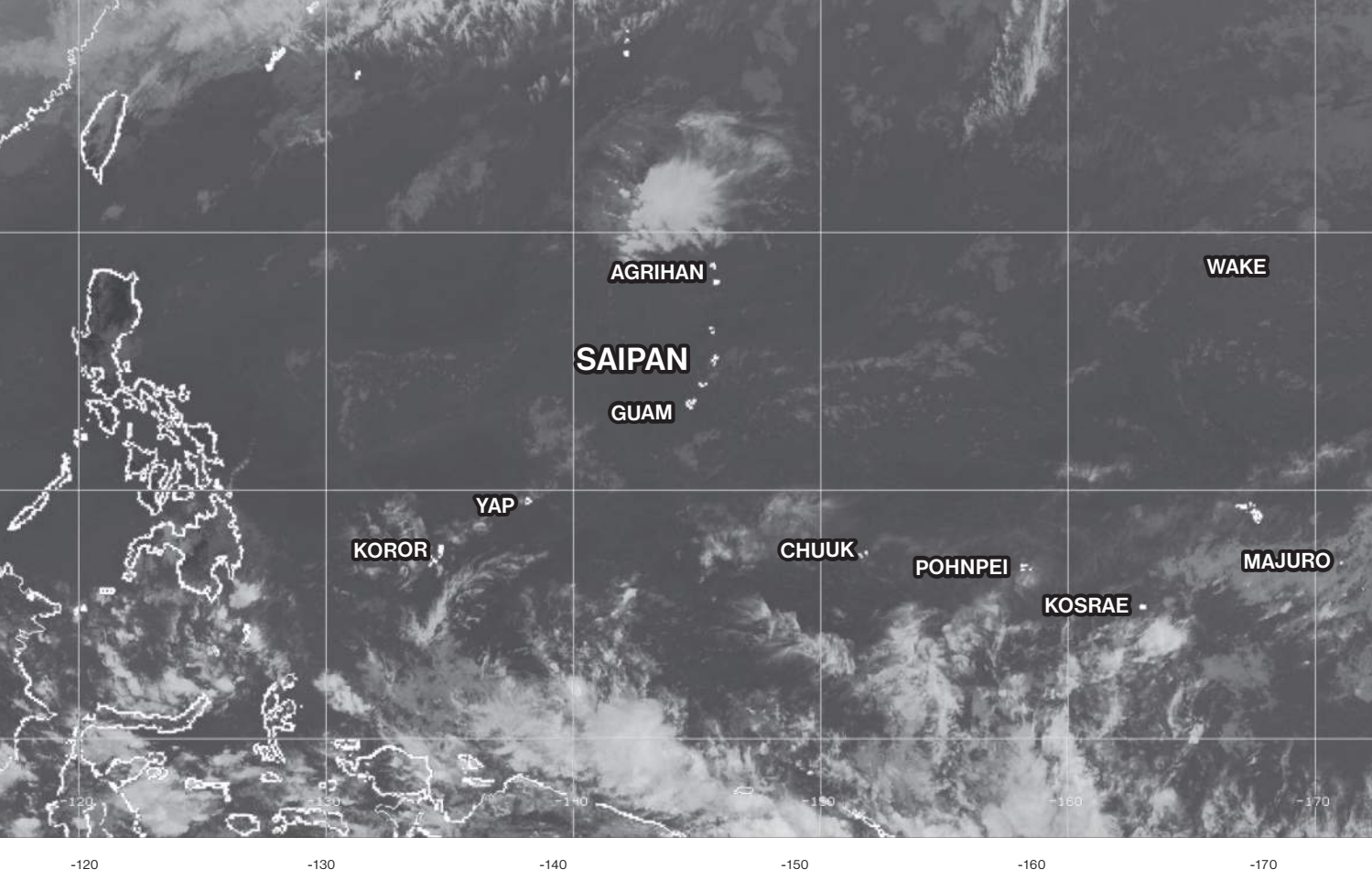
"So the question remains, will our leaders do this to us again next year, or for the next new virus without a vaccine, for the 'public safety?'" she wrote in a follow-up email. "Will the hospitals be better equipped next time? Will we have enough components made in this country to enable us to quickly develop a vaccine and to supply billions of masks?"

"There's something very wrong where the only solution is to shut down the country and scrap individual freedom of movement. Let's fix that."

Amen to that.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	77°	80°	70°	80°	70°	80°	70°	80°	70°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:00 AM, MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to fresh trade winds are seen from the Mariana Islands eastward to the Date Line. A few modest trade-wind disturbances are found upstream near 150E, 157E and near Wake Island at 170E. Latest sounding data from last night reveal a PW value of 1.71 inches, a gradual increase in low-level moisture.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Scat Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Kosrae	Scat Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Majuro	Scat Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:11 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:51 AM	-	-
Wedneesay	-	12:11AM	11:43 AM
Thursday	-	1:06 AM	12:39 PM
Friday	-	2:01 AM	1:38 PM
Saturday	-	2:54 AM	2:39 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	64° / 36°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 70°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 69°	
London	Partly Cloudy	52° / 39°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	77° / 57°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	95° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	73° / 61°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	85° / 74°	
New York	Cloudy	49° / 40°	
Osaka	Rain	63° / 50°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	54° / 34°	
Busan	Showers	63° / 45°	
Rome	Showers	63° / 39°	
Salem	Rain	71° / 46°	
San Francisco	Parytly Cloudy	58° / 46°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	64° / 37°	
Tokyo	Rain	61° / 54°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	56° / 42°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:50 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.57
6:11 AM	LOW TIDE	1.15
11:06 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.59
6:40 PM	LOW TIDE	0.08

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 26, 2020				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6, 7	
ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6, 7	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7);
UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;
ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily	
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily	
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily	
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily	

TINIAN TO SAIPAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily	
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	

Business

Relief package billions can't buy hospitals out of shortages

The billions of tax dollars headed for hospitals and states as part of the \$2.2 trillion coronavirus response bill won't fix the problem facing doctors and nurses: a critical shortage of protective gowns, gloves and masks.

The problem isn't a lack of money, experts say. It's that there's not enough of those supplies available to buy. What's more, the crisis has revealed a fragmented procurement system now descending into chaos just as demand soars. The Associated Press has found.

Hospitals, state governments and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are left bidding against each other and driving up prices.

For more than a week, governors have pushed back against administration assurances that supplies are available now, bitterly complaining to President Donald Trump that there's no coordination.

"It's pretty much every state for itself," said Virginia's secretary of finance, Aubrey Layne, who is deeply involved with his state's effort to buy medical supplies.

Masks that were priced at \$2.50 a week ago are now being quoted as high as \$9, he said, and suppliers make clear that there are "plenty of people out here" looking to buy, even at the high prices.

"There is a lot of opportunism going on," Layne said.

Even if someone took some of this money and built the equipment to make masks, gowns and gloves, it would not solve the problem because none of the materials are made



In this March 17, 2020, photo, Theresa Malijan, a registered nurse, has hand sanitizer applied on her hands after removing her gloves after she took a nasopharyngeal swab from a patient at a drive-thru COVID-19 testing station for University of Washington Medicine patients in Seattle. AP

in the United States. That includes latex and rubber, largely from Southeast Asia, as well as textiles used in surgical gowns that can repel fluids but are easily disposable.

"The suppliers that provide the raw materials needed to make such items have to increase their capacity in order to deliver more materials to manufacturers, which could take time and may not be feasible if the suppliers are located in other parts of the world that are currently crippled by the coronavirus," said Kaitlin Wowak, an assistant professor at University of Notre Dame business school who specializes

in analytics and operations.

"The coronavirus is spreading at an unbelievable rate so you can only expect the demand for personal protective equipment and other medical supplies to follow the same trajectory, which is scary given that there is already a massive shortage of such items at hospitals," said Wowak.

Doctors and nurses in hot spots like New York and New Orleans are caring for feverish, wheezing COVID-19 patients without adequate masks, gloves or gowns.

Can the \$100 billion carved out for hospitals in the stimulus package solve that?

"It is not about throwing money at this problem," said Lisa Ellram, a professor of supply chain management at Miami University of Ohio.

Just like consumers who today wander past empty shelves in the toilet paper aisle, state governments and hospitals are finding their suppliers' warehouses are bare.

The AP reported last week that imports of critical medical supplies were plummeting due to factory closures in China, where manufacturers had been required to sell all or part of their goods internally rather than export to other countries.

Now that bottleneck has

tightened as the pandemic sweeps through the world, shuttering potential backup factories from one country to the next. Many manufacturers have been ordered to shut down or limit production throughout Southeast Asia and Latin America, including in India and Mexico. In Malaysia, where 75 percent of the world's medical gloves are made, AP found factories were shut down and only allowed to reopen with half staff, who are now locked in hostels at their workplaces.

Shipments of medical gloves are down 23% so far this month compared with 2019, and medical gown im-

ports are down 64% for the same period, according to trade data compiled by Panjiva and ImportGenius, services that track imports and exports.

No medical-grade N95 masks, made almost entirely in China, have arrived at U.S. ports so far this month.

An Oregon Nurses Association member who spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern for her job said she's allowed one N95 mask a day to protect against tiny particulates.

"Wearing the same mask from patient to patient to patient, what are you doing? Are we taking care of them or putting them at greater risk?" she said.

A colleague has already tested positive for COVID-19, she said. Her own test was lost so she's being retested. But she continues to work treating patients even though she has minor symptoms.

Doctors and nurses working in hospitals have also told AP about shortages of saline flushes to clean intravenous catheters, disposable CaviWipe towelettes to clean hospital surfaces, defibrillator electrodes to shock hearts back into beating and oxygen concentrators, which help respiratory patients breathe.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death. (AP)

Instacart workers seek strike as jobs get busier and riskier

NEW YORK (AP)—A possible strike by Instacart workers highlights the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the grocery delivery business, where workers are worried about their safety as they try to meet a surge in demand for online groceries.

A group called the Gig Workers Collective is calling for a nationwide walk-out Monday. They've been asking Instacart to provide workers with hazard pay and protective gear, among other demands. Instacart said Sunday it would soon provide workers with a new hand sanitizer upon request and outlined changes to its tip system. The group said the measures were too little too late.

While some workers say they intend to join the strike for at least a day—or have stopped filling orders already for fear of getting the virus—other, newer workers are content to have a paying job at a time of mass layoffs in other industries.

The San Francisco-based delivery app is trying to hire 300,000 more workers—more than doubling its workforce—to fulfill orders it says have surged by 150% year-over-year in the past weeks. The company said 50,000 new shoppers joined its platform in just the past week. Some customers are waiting days to receive orders.

Instacart currently has a workforce of more than



In this June 15, 2017, file photo, bagged purchases from the Kroger grocery store in Flowood, Miss., sit inside this shopping cart. AP

200,000 contracted workers who make multiple trips a day to various grocery stores to fulfill and deliver orders that customers make through the app. It also directly employs about 20,000 part-time workers who are assigned to a single store, collecting groceries that are subsequently

delivered to clients by a contracted Instacart worker.

Chloe Grozdina, a part-time Instacart in-store shopper assigned to a Mariano's grocery store in the Chicago area, says workers are seeing "a lot of apocalypse orders" from customers hunkered down in their homes. Panic shopping

has cleared out the shelves, meaning she often has to replace a customer's orders with a lesser item or notify them that it's not available.

Grozdina, who makes \$13 an hour and doesn't get tips, said the crowds of fellow Instacart shoppers have made it tough to keep a safe distance while racing to fulfill orders. Grozdina said she wears a mask to work that she bought herself and immediately showers when she gets home.

Among their demands, the strike organizers want hazard pay of \$5 an order and supplies of hand sanitizer, wipes and cleaning supplies free of charge. On Sunday, the company said it had contracted with a third-party manufacturer to make a hand sanitizer spray that workers can request at no cost via a website starting Monday, with shipments starting in a few days.

Data show online grocery

orders jumping even before some cities and states imposed "stay at home" orders. During the week of March 2, Instacart, Amazon, and Walmart grocery delivery services each saw at least a 65 percent sales increase compared to the same time last year, according to estimates from Earnest Research.

Instacart has started offering bonuses of between \$25 and \$200 for its hourly employees dependent on hours worked until April 15.

Instacart also announced a month-long extension of a temporary policy giving 14 days of paid leave to workers who are diagnosed with coronavirus, or have been ordered to isolate themselves. The strike organizers that policy extended to workers with a doctor's note verifying a pre-existing condition that could make them more vulnerable to the virus.

Nation

As virus makes goodbyes hard, fears of many more rise in US

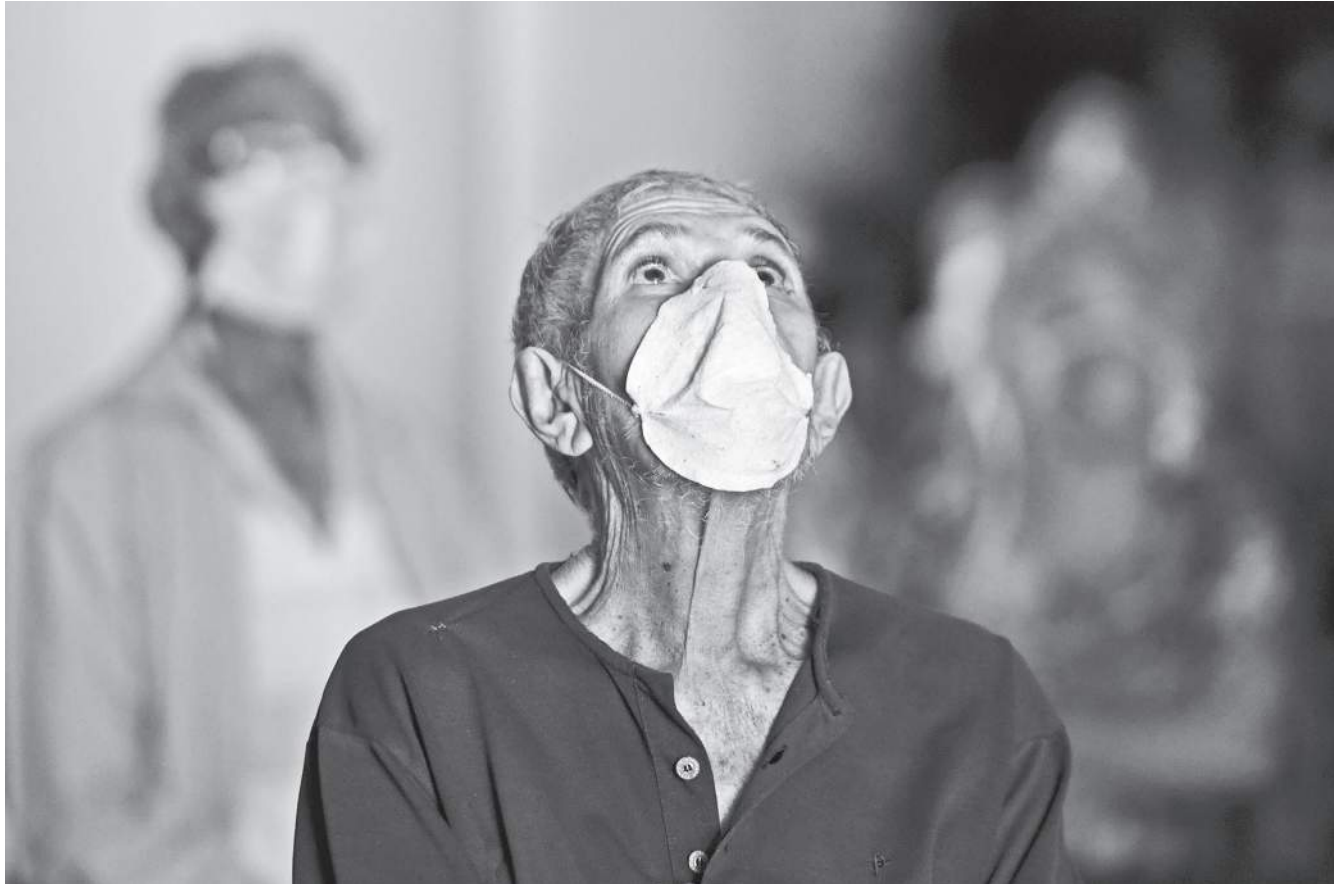
NEW YORK (AP)—The coronavirus outbreak could kill 100,000 to 200,000 Americans, the U.S. government's top infectious-disease expert warned on Sunday as family members described wrenching farewells through hospital windows with dying loved ones.

Faced with that grim projection and the possibility even more could die in the U.S. without measures to keep people away from one another, President Donald Trump extended federal guidelines recommending people stay home for another 30 days until the end of April to prevent the spread of the virus.

Trump's extension of the original 15-day guidelines was a stark reversal just days after he said he hoped the economy could restart in about two weeks and came after Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, made the dire prediction of fatalities, adding that millions in the U.S. could become infected.

"We want to make sure that we don't prematurely think we're doing so great," Fauci said of the extension of the federal guidelines.

By Sunday night, the U.S. had over 140,000 infections and 2,400 deaths, according to the running tally kept by Johns Hopkins University, though the true number of cases is thought to be considerably higher because of testing shortages and mild illnesses that have gone unreported.



An elderly man, wearing a protective face mask as a precaution against the spread of the new coronavirus, prays during mass at a church in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, March 29, 2020.

Worldwide, more than 720,000 people have been infected and nearly 34,000 have died, almost half of them in Italy and Spain, where the health system is at the breaking point.

New York state—where the death toll passed 1,000—remained the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak, with the vast majority of the deaths in New York City. But infections were spiking not only in cities but in Midwestern towns and Rocky Mountain ski havens. West

Virginia reported its first death, leaving only two states—Hawaii and Wyoming—with none linked to COVID-19.

The virus is moving fast through nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other places that house elderly or otherwise vulnerable people, spreading "like fire through dry grass," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said.

Since the first major outbreak in the U.S.—at a nursing home in Kirkland, Washing-

ton—similar facilities around the country have battled infections among residents and staff.

A week ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 147 nursing homes in 27 states had patients with COVID-19. The problem has only worsened since.

In Woodbridge, New Jersey, a nursing home relocated all of its residents after two dozen were confirmed infected and the rest were presumed to be. In Louisiana, at least 11

nursing homes, largely in the New Orleans area, have reported cases. In Mount Airy, Maryland, a death linked to the virus was recorded in a home where 66 people were confirmed infected. The Tennessee governor's office said a nursing home there had about 60 residents and 33 workers confirmed positive.

Residents' loved ones are being kept away to try to slow the spread.

Willa Robinson, whose hus-

band, Vernon, died Thursday, said she last saw him healthy on March 13—the day before his nursing home in Burbank, California, prohibited visitors. She brought him his favorite meal of baked chicken, garlic mashed potatoes and carrots and left with their customary farewell.

"I love you," she told him. "I love you more," he replied.

She sat outside his hospital room days ago and watched through a glass window as he struggled to breathe. Now she must mourn her husband of 55 years in isolation.

"Nobody can come to me," she said.

Others feared they may get no goodbye.

"I have a feeling that I very likely may never see my mother again," said James Preller, whose 94-year-old mother, Ann Preller, is a resident at Peconic Landing, a retirement community on New York's Long Island where seven have died recently.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, the virus can cause severe symptoms like pneumonia and can be fatal.

In New York, the virus is overwhelming some of the city's poorest neighborhoods, with data showing high rates of infection in densely packed areas with big non-English-speaking populations.

Coronavirus response highlights deepening partisan divide

NEW YORK (AP)—In Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti has instituted a shutdown on a city of nearly 4 million people and threatened uncooperative business owners with power shutoffs and arrest.

In Mississippi, home to nearly 3 million people, Gov. Tate Reeves has allowed most businesses to stay open—even restaurants, so long as they serve no more than 10 people at a time.

The divergent approaches are evidence that not even a global pandemic can bridge the gaping political divisions of the Trump era. The fierce tribalism that has characterized debates over immigration, taxes and health care is now coloring policy-making during a coronavirus outbreak that threatens countless lives and local economies across nation.

There are exceptions, but Republican leaders have been far more likely to resist the most aggressive social distancing measures, emboldened by President Donald Trump's ini-

tial rosy outlook and a smaller early caseload in their more rural communities across middle America. But in the more crowded population centers on the East and West coasts where the disease first appeared, the Democrats in charge have been more willing to embrace strict steps such as curfews, sweeping business closures and law enforcement assistance.

"This epidemic has been a window into our politics," said Larry Levitt, who leads health policy for the Kaiser Family Foundation, which has been tracking responses. "Particularly over the past couple of weeks, a political divide has emerged."

It is an election-year divide that could have deadly consequences.

As his campaign struggles for attention, leading Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden has called for a nationwide lockdown to replace the patchwork of local responses, which have var-

ied even among neighboring communities in the same states. Trump, meanwhile, is largely allowing local officials to choose their own course and has encouraged them to compete for scant federal resources. On Sunday, the president extended social distancing guidelines through April as public health officials warned the death toll could exceed 100,000.

Politically, the strategy may be working for the first-term Republican president. With the election just seven months away, Trump's favorable ratings are ticking up, even if his numbers have fallen short of past presidents during times of crisis. Yet the GOP's loyalty will almost certainly be tested in the weeks ahead as the virus spreads from the blue-state coastal communities deeper into red-state middle America.

Democrats like Garcetti fear the politics that are shaping conflicting pandemic responses will have real-world con-

sequences far more important than the next election.

"I do worry that making this a partisan issue will kill more people in redder states," the Los Angeles mayor said in an interview. "There is no way to keep this out of your city."

In Mississippi, Reeves has adopted many social distancing measures such as limiting groups to 10 people, even if he's resisted some of the most aggressive steps. In an interview late last week, the Republican governor reiterated his opposition to a stay-at-home order, adding that he's heeding the guidance of state health officials and Vice President Mike Pence himself, who told him directly during a recent conversation that the Trump administration is not recommending a blanket shutdown.

Reeves dismissed those who think he's not doing enough as enemies of Trump who "don't like the fact that I'm a conservative and I'm willing to pray."

Trump: No quarantine, but travel advisory for NY, CT and NJ

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—President Donald Trump backed away from calling for a quarantine for coronavirus hotspots in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, instead directing Saturday night that a "strong Travel Advisory" be issued to stem the spread of the outbreak.

Vice President Mike Pence tweeted that the CDC was urging residents of the three states "to refrain from non-essential travel for the next 14 days."

The notion of a quarantine had been advocated by governors, including Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida, who sought to halt travelers from the heavily affected areas to their states. But it drew swift criticism from the leaders of the states in question, who warned it would spark panic in a populace already suffering under the virus.

Trump announced he reached the decision after

consulting with the White House task force leading the federal response and the governors of the three states. He said he had directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "to issue a strong Travel Advisory, to be administered by the Governors, in consultation with the Federal Government."

He added: "A quarantine will not be necessary."

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has criticized the federal government's response as his state became the country's virus epicenter, said roping off states would amount to "a federal declaration of war." Cuomo said the prospect of a quarantine didn't come up when he spoke with Trump earlier Saturday, adding that he believed it would be illegal, economically catastrophic, "preposterous" and shortsighted when other parts of the U.S. are seeing cases rise, too.

Asia

City at center of China's virus outbreak gradually revives

WUHAN, China (AP)—Shopkeepers in the city at the center of the virus outbreak in China were reopening Monday but customers were scarce after authorities lifted more of the anti-virus controls that kept tens of millions of people at home for two months.

"I'm so excited, I want to cry," said a woman on the Chuhe Hanjie pedestrian mall who would give only the English name Kat. She said she was a teacher in the eastern city of Nanjing visiting her family in Wuhan when the government locked down the city in late January to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Some 70% to 80% of shops were open Monday but many imposed limits on how many people could enter. Shopkeepers set up dispensers for hand sanitizer and checked customers for signs of fever.

Wuhan's bus and subway service has resumed, easing curbs that cut most access to the city of 11 million people on Jan. 23 as China fought the coronavirus. The train station reopened Saturday, bringing



thousands of people to what is the manufacturing and transportation hub of central China.

"After two months trapped at

home, I want to jump," said Kat, jumping up and down excitedly. "I want to revenge shop."

That will be a welcome

sentiment to officials who are under orders to revive manufacturing, retailing and other industries while also preventing a spike in infections as people return to work.

Travel controls on most of Hubei province, where Wuhan is located, were lifted on March 23. The final restrictions preventing people from leaving Wuhan are due to end April 8.

China had suffered 3,186

coronavirus deaths, including 2,547 in Wuhan, as of midnight Sunday, according to the National Health Commission. The country had a total of 81,470 confirmed cases.

Automakers and other manufacturers in Wuhan have reopened but say they need to restore the flow of components before production returns to normal levels. Some are waiting for employees who went to their hometowns for the

A store worker in protective suit waits for customers at a reopened retail street in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province on Monday, March 30, 2020.

Lunar New Year holiday and were stranded when plane, train and bus services were all but cut off to Hubei province.

Some parents were on the street with their children but traffic was light.

The owner of a candy shop on the Chuhe Hanjie mall said two of her four employees are back at work but she wasn't sure whether the others were willing to come back.

"We've only prepared a little stock, because most people are still afraid of the virus," said the owner, Li Zhen.

A poster at the entrance to the pedestrian mall asked customers to wear masks, cooperate with fever checks and show a code on a smartphone app that tracks a user's health status and travel. A banner nearby said, "Wuhan We Are Coming Back. Thank You."

Two women who wore protective clothing that identified them as medical workers were surrounded by pedestrians who waved Chinese flags at them in a gesture of gratitude. Li gave them bags of candy.

"We may have to wait for a while to see when things can return to normal," said Li.

Tokyo's infection spike after Olympic delay sparks questions

TOKYO (AP)—Before the Olympics were postponed, Japan looked like it had coronavirus infections contained, even as they spread in neighboring countries. Now that the games have been pushed to next year, Tokyo's cases are spiking, and the city's governor is requesting that people stay home, even hinting at a possible lockdown.

The sudden rise in the number of virus cases in Tokyo and the government's strong actions immediately after the Olympic postponement have raised questions in parliament and among citizens about whether Japan understated the extent of the outbreak and delayed enforcement of social distancing measures while clinging to hopes that the games would start on July 24 as scheduled.

With the Olympics now off, many are voicing suspicion that the numbers are rising because Japan suddenly has no reason to hide them.

"In order to make an impression that the city was taking control of the coronavirus, Tokyo avoided making strict requests and made the number of patients look smaller," former Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said in a tweet. "The coronavirus has spread

while they waited. (For Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike) it was Olympics first, not Tokyo's residents."

Experts have found a rise of untraceable cases mushrooming in Tokyo, Osaka and other urban areas — signs of an explosive increase in infections.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Saturday that Japan is now on the brink of a huge jump in cases as it becomes increasingly difficult to trace and keep clusters under control.

"Once infections overshoot, our strategy ... will instantly fall apart," Abe warned. "Under the current situation, we are just barely holding up." He said a state of emergency is not needed just yet, but that Japan could at any time face a situation as bad as in the United States or Europe.

There was less of a sense of urgency displayed recently when many people visited parks for cherry blossom viewing, and Abe was only hinting at an Olympic postponement. But in a phone call with International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach last Tuesday, Abe agreed to postpone the games until around the summer of 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A day later, Koike asked Tokyo residents to stay home

weekends until mid-April, saying confirmed cases of the coronavirus had shot up to 41 in a day from 16 earlier in the week. On Saturday, Tokyo reported 63 new cases, another single-day record. Koike said that infections in Tokyo were on the brink of an explosive increase, and that stronger measures, including a lockdown, could be needed if the spread of the virus doesn't slow.

"Is this just a coincidence?" Maiko Tajima, an opposition lawmaker from the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, said during a parliamentary session last Wednesday, citing Tokyo's sudden spike.

Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said there is "absolutely no relationship" between the Olympic postponement and the number of confirmed cases. Abe cited experts as saying a big reason for the recent rise is the growing number of cases that can't be linked and a jump in infections from abroad. The prime minister told people to "be prepared for a long battle."

A day after Koike's warning, Abe convened a new task force under a recently enacted special law that would allow him to declare a state of emergency in specific areas, including Tokyo.

Plane catches fire at Manila airport, killing all 8 aboard

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A plane carrying eight people, including an American and a Canadian, burst into flames Sunday while attempting to take off from Manila's airport on a flight bound for Japan, killing all those on board, officials said.

The Westwind 24 plane, which was carrying six Filipino crew members and the American and Canadian passengers, was bound for Tokyo on a medical mission when it caught fire near the end of the main runway, Manila airport general manager Ed Monreal said.

Firetrucks and rescue personnel rushed and doused the twin-engine aircraft with foam to try to extinguish the flames, he said.

"Unfortunately, there were no survivors," Monreal told a late-night news conference.

He declined to identify the victims until their families were informed and said other details about the flight and the passengers were unclear.

The Civil Aviation Author-

ity of the Philippines said the aircraft apparently encountered an unspecified "problem which resulted in a fire" as it rolled to take off, adding its chief investigator was on the way to the scene.

Video footage shows the aircraft engulfed in bright-orange flames in the darkness as firefighters scramble to put out the fire by spraying chemical foam while sirens blare.

Nearly three hours after the accident, the bodies of the victims were still inside the wreckage. Airport authorities were waiting for police investigators to examine the crash scene before retrieving the remains, Monreal said.

The airport's main runway was closed due to the accident. The airport had only minimal staff due to air travel restrictions that are part of a monthlong lockdown imposed by the government in the main northern Philippine region of Luzon, where Manila, the capital, lies, to fight the coronavirus outbreak, officials said.

A Korean Airlines flight

bound for Manila was diverted to Clark International Airport, north of Manila, due to the incident, Monreal said, adding that the main runway would be reopened as soon as the wreckage was removed.

Donaldo Mendoza, the deputy chief of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, said the aircraft was deemed "airworthy" based on records and its pilots were properly certified to fly.

The plane had flown to central Iloilo province Saturday to deliver medical supplies without any incident, Mendoza said.

Mendoza said airport tower personnel were horrified to see the plane still rolling on the runway at a point when it should have already taken off, but added it remains unclear what trouble the plane encountered.

"They were really alarmed so they already picked up the hotline just in case, whatever happens, they can immediately call fire, crash and rescue," Mendoza said.

World

Virus forces Europeans to ask: How united do we want to be?

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Europe's fractured union came under new pressure this weekend, as Italy and Spain pleaded for urgent European help to withstand the virus ordeal but Germany showed reluctance to plunge into any radical new solutions.

The north-south divide that has dogged the European Union for years has resurfaced as the virus has galloped across the continent, claiming more deaths than any other region in the world.

"It is the most difficult moment for the EU since its foundation, and it has to be ready to rise to the challenge," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said in a televised address Saturday night.

Sánchez warned them that a lack of solidarity to share the enormous financial burden of the health crisis and the imminent economic slowdown will put the future of the bloc in danger.

"Europe must provide a united social and economic response. We must have evidence that Europe listens and that Europe takes action."

Europeans have shown some signs of solidarity: Germany and Switzerland are treating the sick from Italy and France. Germany and France sent masks and hospital shirts to Italy. And the EU has pledged billions in aid, and threw one of its most sacred rules out the window to help countries weather the virus-driven economic crisis.

But given the scale of this drama, critics say that's not nearly enough.

Meanwhile, China and Russia have made a point of sending medical aid to Italy,



Spanish Royal guard soldiers disinfect a hospital to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, March 29, 2020. AP

making some Italians question where their allegiances should lie. Cuba and Albania have sent medical teams too.

"Europe must demonstrate that it is able to respond to this historic call," Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said late Saturday. "I will fight until the last drop of sweat, until the last gram of energy, to obtain a strong, vigorous, cohesive European response."

Spain and Italy alone account for more than half of the world's death toll, with hundreds of new victims every day.

Sánchez warned that the bloc's southern members can't bear another round of the hard-love austerity applied in the 2008 recession, when

countries like Greece and Portugal were forced to request a bailout and slash their budgets and social services.

"We must not repeat the mistakes of past crises, otherwise the next debt crisis risks coming right after corona," Austrian Finance Minister Gernot Blumel told the Austria Press Agency on Sunday. "We should use the existing instruments before we build new constructions that have long-term effects" on European economic stability.

This time, Spain, Italy, France and six other EU members have asked the union to share the burden of European debt, dubbed "coronabonds," to help fight the virus. But the

idea has met resistance.

German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said Sunday that it's important to ensure that "countries can better carry this difficult task and the extra credit they have to take on."

Scholz said European coordination is essential, but dodged a question about coronabonds. Instead, he stressed that countries are discussing mobilizing money from the eurozone rescue fund created amid Europe's debt crisis a decade ago, the European Stability Mechanism.

"That is a very concrete contribution to solidarity in this difficult situation," he said.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

also appeared unenthusiastic about coronabonds, referring to them as "just a slogan" in a weekend interview with German news agency dpa. That prompted dismay in Italy.

But Germany is not alone in urging caution. The Netherlands, Finland and Auaave similar reservations about unleashing new aid that would have long-term impact on Europe's collective finances. Some want to save money in case the crisis gets even worse, and fear a system where frugal northerners eternally subsidize debt-laden southerners.

Amid concerns about how the EU will survive this crisis, Scholz insisted it should lead to "more Europe."

Iran defends virus response as Syria reports first death

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president on Sunday lashed out at criticism of authorities' lagging response to the worst coronavirus outbreak in the Middle East, saying the government has to weigh economic concerns as it takes measures to contain the pandemic.

Syria meanwhile reported the first fatality from the virus in the war-torn country, which has five confirmed infections. State news agency SANA said a woman died upon reaching an emergency room and tested positive for the virus, without saying where it happened.

Syria has closed schools, restaurants and nightclubs, and imposed a nighttime curfew last week aimed at preventing the virus' spread. Its health care system has been

battered by nearly a decade of civil war, leaving the country particularly vulnerable.

Libya, which has also been mired in chaos since 2011, reported another five cases, bringing its total to eight. The country is split by rival governments, each backed by an array of militias, that have been battling over the capital, Tripoli, for nearly a year.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said authorities had to consider the effect of mass quarantine efforts on Iran's beleaguered economy, which is under heavy U.S. sanctions. It's a dilemma playing out across the globe, as leaders struggle to strike a balance between restricting human contact and keeping their economies from crashing.

"Health is a principle for us,

but the production and security of society is also a principle for us," Rouhani said at a Cabinet meeting. "We must put these principles together to reach a final decision."

"This is not the time to gather followers," he added. "This is not a time for political war."

Even before the pandemic, Rouhani was under fire for the unraveling of the 2015 nuclear deal he concluded with the United States and other world powers. President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the agreement and has imposed crippling sanctions on Iran that prevent it from selling oil on international markets. Iran has rejected U.S. offers of humanitarian aid.

State TV on Sunday reported another 123 deaths, pushing Iran's overall toll to 2,640

amid 38,309 confirmed cases.

Most people suffer only minor symptoms, such as fever and coughing, and recover within a few weeks. But the virus can cause severe illness and death, especially in elderly patients or those with underlying health problems. It is highly contagious, and can be spread by those showing no symptoms.

In recent days, Iran has ordered the closure of nonessential businesses and banned travel between cities. But those measures came long after other countries in the region imposed more sweeping lockdowns. Many Iranians are still flouting orders to stay home in what could reflect widespread distrust of authorities.

Iran has urged the inter-

national community to lift sanctions and is seeking a \$5 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Elsewhere in the region, Qatar reported its first death from the new coronavirus late Saturday, saying the total number of reported cases there was at least 590.

The tiny, energy-rich nation said it flew 31 Bahrainis stranded in Iran into Doha on a state-run Qatar Airways flight. But since Bahrain is one of four Arab countries that have been boycotting Qatar in a political dispute since 2017, Doha said it could not fly the 31 onward to the island kingdom.

"Bahraini officials have said they will send a flight for them at some undefined point in the future," the Qatari government said in a statement.

Off to the cafe: Sweden is outlier in virus restrictions

STOCKHOLM (AP)—The streets of Stockholm are quiet but not deserted. People still sit at outdoor cafes in the center of Sweden's capital. Vendors still sell flowers. Teenagers still chat in groups in parks. Some still greet each other with hugs and handshakes.

After a long, dark Scandinavian winter, the coronavirus pandemic is not keeping Swedes at home even while citizens in many parts of the world are sheltering in place and won't find shops or restaurants open on the few occasions they are permitted to venture out.

Swedish authorities have advised the public to practice social distancing and to work from home, if possible, and urged those over age 70 to self-isolate as a precaution. Yet compared to the lockdowns imposed elsewhere in the world, the government's response to the virus allows a liberal amount of personal freedom.

Standing at bars has been banned in Sweden, but restaurant customers can still be served at tables instead of having to take food to go. High schools and universities are closed, but preschools and primary schools are still running classes in person.

"Sweden is an outlier on the European scene, at least," said Johan Giesecke, the country's former chief epidemiologist and now adviser to the Swedish Health Agency, a government body. "And I think that's good."

Other European nations "have taken political, unconsidered actions" instead of ones dictated by science, Giesecke asserted.

It remains unclear how long Sweden's exceptional state will last.

Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, warning of "many tough weeks and months ahead," announced Friday that as of Sunday, gatherings would be limited to 50 people instead of 500. The government noted that weddings, funerals and Easter celebrations would be affected.

Life & Style

Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood to perform requests on live special

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Garth Brooks and wife Trisha Yearwood will be taking viewer requests during a live prime-time show this week filmed at their home.

CBS will air the special, "Garth and Trisha: Live!" on Wednesday at 9 p.m. Eastern.

In an announcement Sunday, CBS says the country stars will perform "an intimate concert for viewers looking for the comfort and shared joy of music during this difficult time."

The inspiration came from a live show that Brooks per-

formed from his studio last week that attracted millions of viewers and caused Facebook Live to crash multiple times.

With millions of Americans staying at home to try to stop the spread of the coronavirus, performers are turning to live streamed concerts to reach fans and lift spirits. John Legend, Keith Urban and John Mayer are among the stars who have performed virtual concerts.

CBS says the special will be filmed with a minimal crew that will take social distancing precautions.

Music fest, barbecue contest in Memphis are rescheduled

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Tourism officials in Memphis, Tennessee, say the Beale Street Music Festival and the World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest have been rescheduled for the fall after they were postponed by the new coronavirus outbreak.

Memphis in May officials said in a statement Saturday that the barbecue cooking competition has been reset for Sept. 30 through Oct. 3. The music festival will now be held Oct. 16 through Oct. 18.

Both events are the cornerstones of the city's monthlong tourist event in May. They attract music fans and barbecue cooking teams from around the world.

The Lumineers, Three 6 Mafia, The Avett Brothers, Lil Wayne and The Smashing Pumpkins were among the mu-

sical acts scheduled to perform at the music festival before the cancellation. It was not immediately clear if the performers who were set to appear on the original dates in May will be part of the lineup in September.

The Great American River Run also had been postponed. It has been reset for Oct. 31.

This Mississippi River city relies heavily on tourism revenue from Memphis in May. Organizers said earlier this month that they had been instructed by city officials that the events could not be held as originally scheduled.

Meanwhile, Elvis Presley's Graceland said it is extending its closure through April 19. The Memphis tourist attraction is centered on the life and career of the late rock n' roll icon. It annually attracts about 500,000 visitors, including international travelers.

Country singer Joe Diffie dies of coronavirus complications

NEW YORK (AP)—Country singer Joe Diffie, who had a string of hits in the 1990s with chart-topping ballads and honky-tonk singles like "Home" and "Pickup Man," has died after testing positive for COVID-19. He was 61.

Diffie on Friday announced he had contracted the coronavirus, becoming the first country star to go public with such a diagnosis. Diffie's publicist Scott Adkins said the singer died Sunday in Nashville, Tennessee, due to complications from the virus.

Diffie, a native of Tulsa,

Oklahoma, was a member of the Grand Ole Opry for more than 25 years.

His hits included "Honky Tonk Attitude," "Prop Me Up Beside the Jukebox (If I Die)," "Bigger Than the Beatles" and "If the Devil Danced (In Empty Pockets)."

"Country music lost one of the good guys today," Naomi



Diffie

Judd said in a statement.

Diffie's mid-90s albums "Honky Tonk Attitude" and "Third Rock From the Sun" went platinum. Eighteen of Diffie's singles landed in the top 10 on the country charts, with five going No. 1. In his 2013 single "1994," Jason Aldean name-checked the '90s country mainstay.

Diffie shared in a Grammy award for best country collaboration for the song "Same Old Train," with Merle Haggard, Marty Stuart and others. His last solo album was 2010's "The Bluegrass Album: Homecoming."

"Joe Diffie, one of our best singers and my buddy, is gone," Tanya Tucker said in a statement. "We are the same age, so it's very scary. I will miss his voice, his laughter, his songs."

Popular Japanese comedian dies from the coronavirus

TOKYO (AP)—Popular Japanese comedian Ken Shimura, who drew inspiration from the American comedic icon Jerry Lewis, has died from the coronavirus, becoming Japan's first known celebrity victim of the disease. He was 70.

Shimura, who attracted fans of all generations with his slapstick comedy and funny faces, had been treated at a Tokyo hospital and died on Sunday, according to his agency, Izawa Office.

He was diagnosed with pneumonia after contracting

the coronavirus. He was hospitalized on March 20 after developing a fever and breathing troubles, and was put on on a ventilator.

The news of his death comes as new cases have spiked in

Tokyo, with the city's governor warning of an explosive spread of the virus in the region. The news topped Japanese television news and talk shows on Monday, and some fans and media gathered outside the



Shimura

hospital where he had been treated.

Tokyo had 68 new cases of the virus on Sunday, bringing its prefectural total to 430. Nationwide, Japan has confirmed 2,578 cases, including 712 from a cruise

ship. and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Shimura's death sent shock waves throughout Japan, where many people, especially the younger population, are seen as lacking a sense of urgency about the virus.

"I'm shocked to hear that he died so soon after his infection was reported," a 21-year-old college student told NHK television. "Until now, the risk of getting infected seemed someone else's problem, but I'm

'I Love Rock and Roll' co-writer dies of virus complications

NEW YORK (AP)—Alan Merrill—who co-wrote the song "I Love Rock and Roll" that became a signature hit for fellow rocker Joan Jett—died Sunday in New York of complications from the coronavirus, his daughter said. He was 69.

Laura Merrill said on her Facebook account that he died in the morning.

"I was given 2 minutes to say my goodbyes before I was rushed out. He seemed peaceful and as I left there was still a glimmer of hope that he wouldn't be a ticker

on the right hand side of the CNN/Fox news screen," she wrote. "I walked 50 blocks home still with hope in my heart. The city that I knew was empty. I felt I was the only person here and perhaps in many ways I was. By the time I got in the doors to

my apartment I received the news that he was gone."

Merrill said her father was in good spirits recently. She went to a show of his about two weeks ago and had taken a photograph of him for his new album, Merrill said.

Revenge on cheating fiance is delivered on wedding day

DEAR ABBY: This is an open letter to all those women who write to you knowing their men cheated on them and then ask, "Should I marry him?" In their hearts they already know the answer; they just want YOU to tell them "NO!"

My mother saw my fiance's car around town, parked at various churches and parking lots. He parked there so I wouldn't see his car at "the other woman's" house. Well, I showed up unexpectedly at his place one night and saw them both asleep in his bed. In a way, I felt relieved.

I knew I had to do something. I immediately canceled everything, but had the wedding invitations printed and gave them to his mom and sister to send out "right away." When the big day arrived, I sat across the street in Dad's car with my mom, watching as only HIS side of the family showed up at the vacant church. The note on the door read: "Stay with 'Jazmine.' You two deserve each other! Now tell your family what you did."

I explained everything to my parents an hour later over dinner at the restaurant where we were supposed to have had our reception. We were all relieved the wedding was canceled. We laughed so much, and we reviewed all the signs that my mom tried to show me that I had ignored.

So don't get mad, ladies. Do what I did -- dry your tears and get even.

NEVER LOOKED BACK

DEAR NEVER: Love is blind, and you should have listened to your mother. You're lucky you found out in time and didn't marry your faithless fiance. While I don't normally recommend revenge, I think in this case, the man had it coming.

DEAR ABBY: I am 52 years old and have experienced chronic fatigue (from Lyme and Epstein-Barr) most of my adult life. Four years ago, I discovered a wonderful medical practitioner and, by adhering to her protocol, regained such improved health that I began volunteering with a local organization. Due to a recent setback, however, fatigue has prevented me from volunteering, and my absence has been noticed.

Although I am usually a private person, I decided to divulge my health issues to the leader so he wouldn't think I was unhappy with my duties. He then began asking if I had tried various health products and remedies to the point where I felt I was on trial and defending myself. In the past, before I received an accurate diagnosis, some family members and physicians doubted the validity of my illness, so I am sensitive to being questioned.

Over the years, I have sought treatment from various sources, from local health stores to nationally recognized hospitals, and I don't appreciate advice from healthy armchair experts. I also don't like being questioned or doubted. Did I set myself up by disclosing my health issues, or should I

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



have remained polite but vague?

SURVIVOR IN THE EAST

DEAR SURVIVOR: In a sense, yes, you did set yourself up by disclosing the reason for your absence. The medical conditions from which you suffer were poorly understood years ago, and many people—medical personnel included—were under the impression that their patients' problems were all in their heads. Please try to be less defensive where this person is concerned. From my perspective, he was only trying to be helpful.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

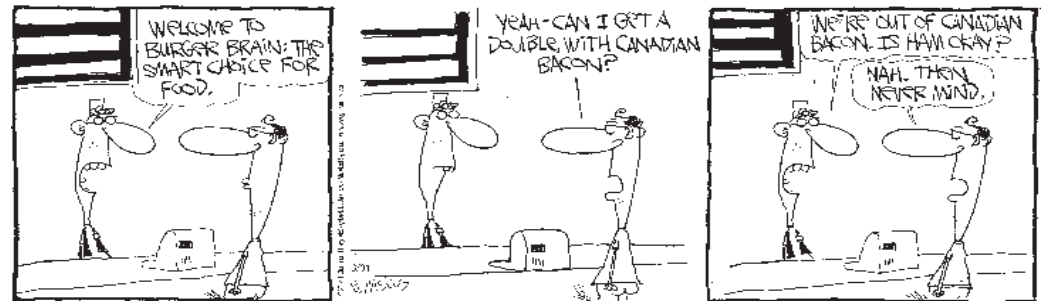
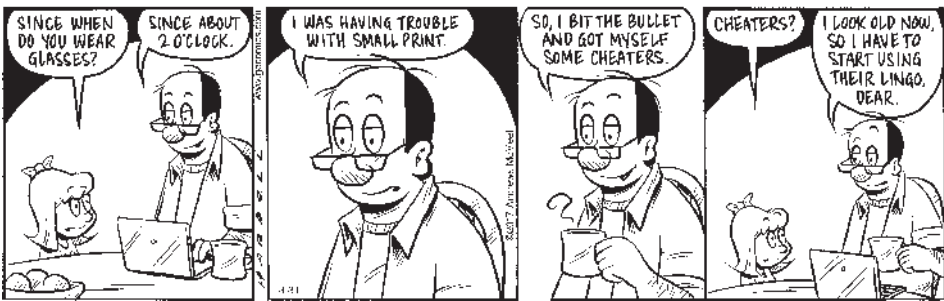


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Earth orbiter
5 Jazz phrase
9 Mac alternatives
12 Split
13 Notion
14 Parking place
15 Abandoned city
17 Eggs
18 Blue shade
19 Spud
21 Did yard work
24 Treaty
25 "May It Be" singer
26 "Recognize my voice?"
30 Depot (Abbr.)
31 Like some mouthwash
32 Author Fleming
33 Emergency phone services

DOWN

35 Queue after Q
36 Oodles
37 Appointments
38 Psychoanalysis pioneer
40 New Age pianist John
42 Grazing land
43 Accelerated career path
48 Earth Day mo.
49 — Bator
50 Lotion additive
51 Spinning toy
52 Turkish money

35 Put up, as curtains
20 Rm. coolers
21 Netting
22 Aware of
23 Dodge City
24 Favorites
26 Seed-removing machines
27 French article
28 Abhor
29 Burden
31 Aware (of)
34 Singer
35 Gung-ho
37 "Spring ahead" hrs.
38 Level
39 Seized vehicle
40 Russian ruler
41 Sicilian volcano
44 "The Greatest"
45 Carte lead-in
46 Bamboozle
47 Beer barrel

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	G	U	A	A	G	O	A	E	H	O
R	E	S	T	E	D	U	P	A	R	A
F	L	A	T	R	A	T	E	D	I	N
R	O	C	R	I	S	S	C	O	W	
A	I	A	N	E	I	A	U	N	T	S
A	I	G	A	U	L	S	C	U	T	
F	L	A	N	N	E	L	O	G	E	E
P	A	C	S	B	L	A	Z	E		
A	H	I	I	I	E	D				
D	E	A	F	L	A	S	H	O	B	
R	C	A	R	U	P	S	T	A	T	E
E	S	P	Y	E	S	T	A	N	A	

Yesterday's answer 3-31

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Jessica Szohr, 35; Ewan McGregor, 49; Christopher Walken, 77; Shirley Jones, 86.

Happy Birthday: Listen carefully; you'll find it easier to make the best decision. Learn from what you have experienced, and you'll know exactly how to navigate your way through the changes you encounter. Stay focused on what you want to achieve, and you'll get the results you want. A change will help you find new ways to use your skills and knowledge. Your numbers are 8, 11, 20, 24, 27, 38, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't expect things to go according to plan. Take a detour if it will get you where you want to go. Take pride in what you do, and don't worry about what others think. Choose the path that leads to your happiness. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Uncertainty will cloud your vision and deter you from taking advantage of an opportunity if you hesitate. Listen to your heart, get the facts and do what you do best. Common sense won't lead you astray. Be responsible and show discipline. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Talk is cheap if you don't follow through with your plans. Honesty and integrity will help you gain the respect of your peers. Be responsible, and maintain your status quo. Put greater emphasis on living a healthier lifestyle. Commitment is favored. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change of attitude will prompt others to do things your way. Positive influences will encour-

age you to look on the bright side of any situation you face. You'll shine if you offer solutions. Romance will enhance your life. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Charm will get you further than force. If you don't like the options offered, do your own thing instead of getting into a debate over something you cannot change. Take care of your interests, health and financial well-being. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll learn a lot if you attend events, conferences or meetings that can help you get ahead. Your appeal will grow if you offer your experience and solutions to people going through changes. A unique partnership looks promising. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stand tall, and don't skip a beat when dealing with matters that could easily spin out of control. Keep your emotions in check, and don't make a move without having an alternative plan in place. Discipline and targeted response will be required. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take an interest in what's going on around you. The people you meet and the contributions you make will bring good results. Bonding with someone quite different from you will help you recognize your true potential. Romance is favored. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your energy to good use. A chance to make a positive change at home or to a partnership will pay off. The money you need will manifest if you are smart with your investments and you restrict your spending habits. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't waste time on something that isn't going to help you get ahead. Do things you know will pay off and encourage success. A change to the way you live will help you save money and promote better relationships with loved ones. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep your life and your plans simple. Look for ways to lower your overhead. Don't alter your life because someone else does. Baby steps will ensure you make progress. A friend or relative will offer unexpected insight. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Use your imagination, and plan to have some fun. Getting together with someone you haven't seen in a long time will encourage you to get back to your roots. Love and romance along with personal improvement are favored. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are positive, kind and generous. You are aggressive and open.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6	7		3							
2			5			4				
3	8			5		6				
		2		7			3	4		
	1	3	9							
		6							9	
					3					
				8		7	1			

Difficulty Level ★★

3/31

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	7	9	2	5	1	8	4	3
5	2	8	3	4	7	1	6	9
4	3	1	8	9	6	7	2	5
2	1	6	9	3	8	5	7	4
8	5	3	4	7	2	6	9	1
9	4	7	1	6	5	3	8	2
3	6	4	5	8	9	2	1	7
7	9	2	6	1	3	4	5	8
1	8	5	7	2	4	9	3	6

By Tully Lovel

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LURKING IN THE SHADOWS

Solution: 9 letters

G L N O G A R D R T A E R G A
M U U D R A O H N L N E T D
P A A F G W T S A A H D R S W
E M G R R A E R L U R E E A E
S M A I D E N S N A B R S E R
T R M E C I W G T R Y E Y B H
I E R O A A A O O E R E C O S
L P N P U R L N P U R O R C L
E T P R I N C E S S U N X A A
N I L A R U T A N R E P U S C
C L N H C A E A A D D A A T I
E I F S L R F G I E R I F L H
V A R O T S E U G N O T Y E T
A N N C L A W S M H U N G R Y
C S F O R K E D T E E I V O M

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3/31

Beast, Castle, Cave, Claws, Courage, Crest, Dragon, Ender, Faux, Fire, Folk, Forked, Fume, Great, Guardians, Harry, Hoard, Horned, Hungarian, Hungry, Magical, Maidens, Mountain, Movie, Mythical, Narnia, Norberta, Pestilence, Powerful, Predator, Princess, Reptilian, Sharp, Shrewd, Slayer, Smaug, Supernatural, Talons, Tongues, Treasures, Western
Yesterday's Answer: Professions
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 40, 42, and 44 through 58 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Despite feud, Giannis praises Harden



MILWAUKEE—Under normal circumstances, NBA players are usually all over Twitter, Instagram and TikTok, interacting with fans and each other. In this time of social distancing and self-quarantine, they're becoming even more online and giving us more insight into their lives and thoughts—and Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks is no exception.

On Instagram Live, Antetokounmpo was asked which NBA player is the hardest to guard. He took several seconds of deep, intense thought before giving his answer: James Harden of the Houston Rockets.

This is no small compliment from Giannis, because he and Harden have been beefing for a bit. It all started in August when Harden griped about Antetokounmpo winning the 2019 MVP award, saying that Antetokounmpo's 78 first-place votes were the result of a "media narrative." Then Antetokounmpo skipped over Harden in the All-Star draft and made some less-than-flattering comments about him, saying he wanted "somebody who's gonna pass the ball."

The feud continued in late February when Harden shot back at Antetokounmpo's All-Star Game comments.

"I wish I was just 7 feet and could just run and just dunk. That takes no skill at all. I've got to actually learn how to play basketball and have skill. I'll take that every day," Harden said.

Despite the back-and-forth and the possible personal animosity the two feel toward each other, Antetokounmpo has respect for Harden and his game. If Harden wasn't actually the toughest to guard, you know Giannis wouldn't



In this Dec. 16, 2017 file photo, Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) drives as Houston Rockets guard James Harden defends during the first half of an NBA game in Houston. AP

have bothered saying his name.

Meanwhile, The Athletic reported that the NBA Together initiative is

asking NBA players who have recovered from coronavirus to consider donating plasma.

NBA Together was created in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, as the NBA suspended the 2019-20 season.

One of the efforts NBA Together is supporting is the COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Project. This project has brought together top medical specialists to determine if plasma donations could help in treating coronavirus.

Several NBA players have tested positive for COVID-19. This group includes Rudy Gobert and Donovan Mitchell of the Utah Jazz, Kevin Durant of the Brooklyn Nets, Marcus Smart of the Boston Celtics and Christian Wood of the Detroit Pistons. All players reported either feeling no symptoms or have recovered from the affliction.

The Celtics faithful got some great news on Sunday night. Smart has officially been cleared of coronavirus as of Friday.

Smart took to Twitter on Sunday night to proclaim that he had been "corona free" for two days. Here's a look at his message to fans.

Brad Stevens had confirmed that Smart had been "feeling good" in a recent interview, and it appears that the scrappy guard is now out of the woods.

Smart had been asymptomatic at the time of his test. But he was tested out of an abundance of caution given that the Celtics had squared off against the Utah Jazz not long before Rudy Gobert tested positive for the disease.

After his diagnosis, Smart appeared on CNN to offer his perspective on the pandemic. He said that he was taking the quarantine "very, very seriously" even before his test had come back positive.

With Smart cleared, that means that all Celtics players and staffers that were tested have been cleared of COVID-19.

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo Olympic President Yoshiro Mori said Monday he expects to talk with IOC President Thomas Bach this week about potential dates and other details for the rescheduled games next year.

The International Olympic Committee and Japanese organizers last week postponed the Olympics until 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I anticipate speaking to President Bach this week," Mori said, speaking at the opening of an organizing committee executive board meeting. "He tends to call me directly, and that puts me in trouble because I don't have good command of English."

Mori has repeatedly said the Olympics will be held no later than next summer and many reports suggest it will be in the same July-August slot.

This year's games were to have opened on July 24 and closed on August 9. The corresponding weeks next year would mean a July 23 opening ceremony.

"Opinions on both sides have been compiled, whether

Tokyo Olympic head expects call from Bach on new date

spring or summer," Mori said. "There are opinions for both options and they both have advantages and disadvantages that are being compared and then will be decided."

After holding out for weeks, local organizers and the IOC last week postponed under pressure from athletes, national Olympic bodies, and sports federations.

The decision on a date is expected to come quickly. The athletes are demanding it, and any reorganization revolves around a firm time slot.

Both Mori and CEO Toshiro Muto have said the cost of rescheduling will be "massive"—local reports suggest several billion dollars—with most of the expenses borne by Japanese taxpayers.

Meanwhile, before the Olympics were postponed, Japan looked like it had coronavirus infections contained, even as they spread in neighboring countries. Now that the games have been pushed to next year, Tokyo's cases are

spiking, and the city's governor is requesting that people stay home, even hinting at a possible lockdown.

The sudden rise in the number of virus cases in Tokyo and the government's strong actions immediately after the Olympic postponement have raised questions in parliament and among citizens about whether Japan understated the extent of the outbreak and delayed enforcement of social distancing measures while clinging to hopes that the games would start on July 24 as scheduled.

With the Olympics now off, many are voicing suspicion that the numbers are rising because Japan suddenly has no reason to hide them.

"In order to make an impression that the city was taking control of the coronavirus, Tokyo avoided making strict requests and made the number of patients look smaller," former Japanese Prime Min-

ister Yukio Hatoyama said in a tweet. "The coronavirus has spread while they waited. (For Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike) it was Olympics first, not Tokyo's residents."

Experts have found a rise of untraceable cases mushrooming in Tokyo, Osaka and other urban areas—signs of an explosive increase in infections.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Saturday that Japan is now on the brink of a huge jump in cases as it becomes increasingly difficult to trace and keep clusters under control.

"Once infections overshoot, our strategy ... will instantly fall apart," Abe warned. "Under the current situation, we are just barely holding up." He said a state of emergency is not needed just yet, but that Japan could at any time face a situation as bad as in the United States or Europe.

There was less of a sense of urgency displayed recently

when many people visited parks for cherry blossom viewing, and Abe was only hinting at an Olympic postponement. But in a phone call with International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach last Tuesday, Abe agreed to postpone the games until around the summer of 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A day later, Koike asked Tokyo residents to stay home weekends until mid-April, saying confirmed cases of the coronavirus had shot up to 41 in a day from 16 earlier in the week. On Saturday, Tokyo reported 63 new cases, another single-day record. Koike said that infections in Tokyo were on the brink of an explosive increase, and that stronger measures, including a lockdown, could be needed if the spread of the virus doesn't slow.

"Is this just a coincidence?" Maiko Tajima, an opposition lawmaker from the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, said during a parliamentary session last Wednesday,

citing Tokyo's sudden spike.

Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said there is "absolutely no relationship" between the Olympic postponement and the number of confirmed cases. Abe cited experts as saying a big reason for the recent rise is the growing number of cases that can't be linked and a jump in infections from abroad. The prime minister told people to "be prepared for a long battle."

A day after Koike's warning, Abe convened a new task force under a recently enacted special law that would allow him to declare a state of emergency in specific areas, including Tokyo.

Japan's strategy has been to focus on clusters and trace infection routes rather than testing everyone. A guideline issued Saturday still says that tests will be conducted per clinical doctors' advice. Experts set a high bar for testing eligibility, allowing them only for those linked to clusters or those with symptoms, because they fear massive testing will fill up beds that are needed for patients in severe need, and cause a collapse of medical systems.



Offseason approach sets new tone for Jets future

NEW YORK (AP)—No big splash. Not a lot of flash. No breaking the bank.

Joe Douglas entered his first full offseason running the New York Jets armed with a clear plan. And, so far, the general manager is sticking to it. He has been busy improving his team by filling serious needs and building roster depth without compromising the franchise's future with salary cap-crippling deals.

Less than two weeks into free agency, Douglas is setting a tone unlike that of the often free-spending Jets of recent years.

Big deals to big names such as Le'Veon Bell, C.J. Mosley, Trumaine Johnson and Darrelle Revis highlighted previous offseasons. Douglas has instead operated with prudence and patience—even as fans nervously kept refreshing their Twitter feeds waiting for moves during the first few days of the NFL's new league year. He has made mostly modest deals with second-tier free agents with upside while trying to retool and restructure the roster for coach Adam Gase and defensive coordinator Gregg Williams.

No bidding wars with other teams. And, no bidding against themselves.

"I think you have to choose the right targets," Douglas said at the NFL combine in Indianapolis last month. "First, you have to make sure they fit with what you're trying to do from a team-building, character perspective—how they fit with Adam and Gregg's scheme. And if the right opportunity presents itself, you can't be afraid to pull the trigger."

"We're going to have different tiers of free agents, with what money they're going to make. But it's going to be important for us to choose the right person."

CEO Christopher Johnson believes he did exactly that when he made the unconventional decision to fire GM Mike Maccagnan last June—after free agency and the draft—and hired the highly regarded Douglas away from Philadelphia.

Douglas spent the next several months watching, evaluating, learning and preparing. After a 7-9 season filled with injuries and inconsistency on the field, the GM knew all eyes would be on him this offseason.

And now, Douglas is putting his fingerprints on the franchise. Even if it's still somewhat under the radar.

Douglas has three Super Bowl rings, including two with Baltimore where, as a scout, he watched Ozzie Newsome build the Ravens into an



In this Dec. 29, 2019 file photo, New York Jets quarterback Sam Darnold (14) runs with the ball during the second half of an NFL game against the Buffalo Bills in Orchard Park, N.Y. AP

Agents share how COVID-19 impacts draft prospects

The 2020 NFL Draft might favor players who were able to attend the Senior Bowl and the NFL Scouting Combine, because of pro days and in-person meetings being canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. But some agents believe teams have all the information they need to proceed on schedule.

Leigh Steinberg and Chris Cabott, from Steinberg Sports and Entertainment, spoke to NBC Sports Bay Area about how their preparation for the draft has been consistent to what they've done in the past. Their agency represents Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa and wide receiver Jerry Jeudy, among other draft hopefuls.

Both longtime agents believe players who attended an All-Star event or the combine

have an advantage, but that always has been the case. As in every draft, there will be players who exceed expectations and those who don't live up to them.

"When I first started in the industry in 1975 with Steve Bartkowski, there were no pro days, no team meetings, no combine," Steinberg said. "If you look at statistics from players then, to those selected in 2005, the players in 1975 were more successful and productive."

"Teams obviously believe that the more information they have, the better, but at some point, it's enough. I believe they have enough information to make educated and prudent choices."

Brett Tessler, who represents 49ers running back Raheem Mostert, believes players

who weren't able to attend or weren't invited to the combine are at a disadvantage across the board. An off-the-radar player won't have the chance to catch a scout or coach's eye at a local pro day and jump up a team's draft board.

"For most non-combine guys, it's going to put everybody at an equal disadvantage," Tessler told NBC Sports Bay Area. "Teams will rely more on the spring testing numbers that they got prior to this season."

"But, the biggest disadvantage for non-combine guys trying to get drafted is the lack of being brought in for pre-draft visits, where the medical staffs can do all the background work on these guys that they need to do."

Just like everyone across the nation, players, agents and

teams are taking advantage of video conferencing technology such as Zoom and Skype for their 30 one-on-one pre-draft visits. This actually might be the one advantage for players who have grown up with video calls as the norm.

As in the past, teams still have the ability to ask players schematic questions using a virtual chalkboard, and go over game film during video conferencing sessions. Cabott also believes one resource could be more important than in previous pre-draft research.

"Trainers," Cabott said. "Those guys who were working with players, getting them ready for pro days will have information that will be important for teams. They can give projections, send videos of testing and have insight to a player's work ethic."

and, like on the offensive line, he made massive changes.

Douglas first re-signed Brian Poole to a one-year, \$5 million fully guaranteed contract, keeping Williams' primary nickel/slot guy in the mix. But then the Jets released the disappointing Trumaine Johnson, who was supposed to be a cornerstone of the defense when he signed a five-year, \$72.5 million contract in 2018. Douglas also cut Darryl Roberts, who started several games over the last two seasons but was due to count \$6 million on the cap this season.

Needing a starting-caliber cornerback, Douglas signed Pierre Desir to a one-year deal worth up to \$5.5 million a day after he was cut by Indianapolis. That came after other teams spent big money on the likes of Chris Harris Jr. (Chargers—two years, \$17 million), Byron Jones (Dolphins—five years, \$82 million) and James Bradberry (Giants—three years, \$45 million).

There hasn't been all good news, though. In particular, the Jets lost speedy wide receiver Robby Anderson to Carolina on a two-year, \$20 million contract. But Douglas bounced right back and got his projected replacement a few hours later by bringing in Breshad Perriman on a one-year deal worth up to \$8 million and including \$6 million guaranteed.

New York re-signed outside linebacker Jordan Jenkins and made several depth moves by bringing back Neville Hewitt and James Burgess, and agreeing to terms with former Ravens inside linebacker Patrick Onwuasor on a one-year contract.

Douglas still has plenty of work to do, still lots of needs to be filled. And that might be worrisome to some Jets fans who aren't close to satisfied with the current roster. Pass rusher Jadeveon Clowney is still available, and so are the likes of Everson Griffen and Logan Ryan. While unlikely, there still could be a headline-making move before the focus turns to the draft.

And, that's where Douglas will really begin to truly make his mark on the franchise, starting with the No. 11 overall pick and building a foundation for the future.

"Making smart decisions and being opportunistic," Douglas said, "and trying to improve this roster the best way we can."

Meanwhile, the Chiefs and wide receiver Demarcus Robinson have agreed to terms on a one-year deal that helps the reigning Super Bowl champions keep their top four receivers under contract heading into next season.

annual playoff contender.

"Ozzie's consistent, Ozzie's patient," Douglas said. "Ozzie is not going to get wrapped up in emotions when he's making decisions. He's not going to get wrapped up in perceived needs. You know, he's going to do what's best for the team short- and long-term."

Douglas spent three seasons

in Philadelphia as the vice president of personnel, playing a key role in shaping the Eagles' Super Bowl-winning squad to cap the 2017 season.

Douglas has certainly seen the blueprints for success, and he stressed the need to protect quarterback Sam Darnold. So, revamping the offensive line was a priority

entering free agency.

In just five days, Douglas switched out the big boys up front. And, it wasn't by going after big-ticket blockers such as Jack Conklin or Trent Williams, although there was interest. Instead, he re-signed left guard Alex Lewis for three years and \$18.6 million, and then agreed to terms with

left tackle George Fant (three years, up to \$30 million), center Connor McGovern (three years, \$27 million), guard Greg Van Roten (three years) and guard/center Josh Andrews (one year).

That's significant money, but not huge.

Cornerback was also at the top of the offseason wish list,

Wimbledon likely to be canceled

GERMANY—Wimbledon organizers will announce the cancellation of the grasscourt Grand Slam this week due to the coronavirus pandemic, German Tennis Federation vice president Dirk Hordorff has told Sky Sports.

All England Lawn Tennis Club officials earlier said the June 29-July 12 event would not be played behind closed doors and postponement was not without significant risk and difficulty.

"Wimbledon has stated that they will have a board meeting next Wednesday and will make the final decision there," Hordorff told Sky Sports Germany.

"I am also involved in the bodies of the ATP and WTA. The necessary decisions have already been made there and Wimbledon will decide to cancel next Wednesday. There is no doubt about it. This is necessary in the current situation."

"It is completely unrealistic



AP
In this undated file photo shows the Centre Court at the The All England Lawn Tennis Club where the Wimbledon Championships is played.

to imagine that with the travel restrictions that we currently

have an international tennis tournament where hundreds of

thousands of people from all over the world would travel. That is unthinkable."

The AELTC did not respond to a request for comment.

The postponement of the Tokyo Olympics opened up a two-week window in the tennis calendar in July/August but it is

less likely that it will be feasible for Wimbledon, which has only two covered courts and cannot be held past late summer.

French Open organizers stunned the tennis world by unilaterally postponing the claycourt Grand Slam at Roland Garros from May

until late September because of the pandemic.

The French Tennis Federation (FFT) came under heavy fire from tennis players around the world at the lack of communication as the new dates clashed with several other events already featuring on the calendar.

The men's ATP Tour and the WTA, which runs women's tournaments, require their players to participate at the four Grand Slams, but the new French Open dates are yet to feature on the calendars of either association.

"The unilateral behavior of the organizers has been criticized by everyone and I can simply predict that the French Open will not be relocated as it was intended," Hordorff said.

He said either the FFT would go ahead with the new dates and feel the wrath of the entire tennis world or they have the option to start working with others to draw up a plan that makes sense for everyone.

AFC president pays tribute to frontliners



KUALA LUMPUR—The Asian Football Confederation

president Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa praised the outstanding contributions of the frontline health professionals, carers and responders who are doing so much to help and protect communities across Asia and the world.

Shaikh Salman also thanked the work of the AFC's member associations and the contribution of players and officials during this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has claimed so many lives across the globe.

"In these uncertain times, we look to our health professionals more than ever and I am so proud at the way so many health workers, doctors, and medical personnel as well as first responders have selflessly put aside concerns for their own well-being to save the lives of others," the AFC president said.

"In football, we are used

to seeing words such as heroes or stars, but at this time the real heroes and stars are those who have worked so tirelessly to save and heal their communities and to protect their countries. These are the real-life heroes and deserve our gratitude. The AFC is proud to be working with international agencies, such as the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent and the United Nations, who are on the frontline and making such important contributions. In the coming days, the AFC will be announcing further initiatives to assist these organizations and, in turn, the communities they support. Our motto is: Football Cares and there is no better time in the world's history for the AFC to demonstrate this," he added.

The AFC president also thanked the AFC's member associations for their response to the current crisis.

"Our members are integral parts of their communities and I have been proud

of the way they have freely contributed to benefit their people. Whether it be by donating hospital beds, providing much-needed food, using their AFC Dream Asia Award prize money to come up with schemes for either their or other countries and by partnering, like the AFC, with global NGOs, the response has been exceptional, Shaikh Salman said.

"And at the same time, players and officials have freely given their time to stress the World Health Organization's (WHO) advice as a part of the AFC's #BreakTheChain #StayAtHome campaign. We had more than 50 Asian football icons willing to take part in the first 48 hours, which was extremely heart-warming. Those players and officials are repeating the key messaging of maintaining the most stringent standards of hygiene and social distancing, staying at home and adhering to the many governments who have introduced travel and movement restrictions." (PR)

D&Q

From Page 20

in the seven-team league.

Ronnie Labadan was the lone double-figure scorer for Fiesta after recording 10 points, but he drew a lot of help from his teammates, as five posted at least 6 markers apiece. Paul Quizon and Jao Bernardo tallied 9 each, Johnson Suba logged 8, and Red Demafelix and Jason Fagalpag added 6 apiece.

Ahead by only 8 at halftime,

30-22, Labadan and his teammates burned the hoops in the second half, while CTSI could not fire back to drop its debut game.

First Game

D&Q 42—Riungel 16, Fujihira 8, Elisair 6, Manglona 4, Benavente 3, Sablan 3, King 2, Camu 2.

Kanoa Resort 34—Bravo 12, Alipio 8, Rivera 5, Quinitip 5, Parulan 3, Mateo 2, Banzagale 2, Pablo 1.

Scoring by halves: 24-20, 42-34.

Second Game

Fiesta Resort 62—Labadan 10, Quizon 9, Bernardo 9, Suba 8, Fagalpag 6, Demafelix 6, Sedillo 4, Obmerga 2, Gracia 2.

CTSI 45—Jinang 11, Buenabajo 9, Balingit 6, Alegre 4, Garcia 4, Echavez 4, Layson 4.

Scoring by quarters: 30-22, 62-45.

TSUNAMI

From Page 20

changes ideas on training drills.

"Usually, our swimmers exchange many information there. I also post videos/pictures of Tsunami swimmers. They check their swimming form and study them. Right now, we have dryland training contents and introductions. I video instructions and post them in the group chat," Kimura said.

Before suspending their training at the PIC facility,

Tsunami Saipan swimmers were getting ready for the 2010 Micronesian Swimming Championships and a couple more off-island competitions.

"FINA (Fédération Internationale De Natation) and Oceania Swimming Association decided all international meets are postponed indefinitely. Guam Swimming Federation, which is the host of the Micronesian Swimming Championships, also told us they would reschedule MSC after this fall although the schedule still depends on the government's an-

nouncement," Kimura said.

Tsunami Saipan has initially selected 19 swimmers for the Guam tournament. The list includes David Roberto, Kevin Guerrero, Joseph Zhang, Nelson Batallones, Juhn Tenorio, Jinnosuke Suzuki, Isaiah Aleksenko, Kean Pajarillaga, Shuman Bargman, Kouki Watanabe, Justin Ma, Asaka, Shoko, and Nagisa Litulumar, Ayumi Obligation, Julia Jinang, Michelle Cheng, Aoi Braxton, Maria Batallones, Sari Barman, and Maria Guerrero.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members perform dryland training drills at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan poolside last month before their practice sessions were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Despite
feud, Giannis
praises Harden

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Offseason
approach sets
new tone for
Jets future

PAGE 18



20 TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tsunami Saipan swimmers on track



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Juhn Tenorio performs a balance training drill at their home.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, siblings and Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members Shoko, Nagisa, and Asaka Litulumar do jump rope routines at their garden as part of their dryland training session while they can't practice at the pool due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members are called to a competition soon, they will be up to the challenge as they continue to train despite of the COVID-19 crisis.

"Everyone is doing dryland training at their house or property. Our swimmers keep moving their bodies everyday and preparing for the time we can get back to the pool," Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, who had to suspend the club's training sessions at the Pacific Islands Club pool earlier this month in response to the gov-

ernment's call to refrain from having social gathering, including sports practices, to reduce the risk of the virus spread.

"They are trying their best to keep training under this unfortunate and challenging times," Kimura added.

The Tsunami Saipan official

added that despite the lack of training sessions at an appropriate facility, the club members' morale are still high and they have the initiative to continue some of their workout drills.

"Even if their coach did not say anything about training at their homes, they keep doing

dryland workouts by themselves. They know them well because they did these drills in our regular practices," Kimura said.

It also helps that Tsunami Saipan created a group chat so members and coaches can ex-

**See TSUNAMI on
Page 19**

D&Q gets first victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

D&Q quickly battled back from its opening day loss in the 2020 TanHoldings Inter-Company Basketball League after outclassing Kanoa Resort, 42-34, at the TSL Sports Complex.

Ricky Riungel scored 16 points in the March 13 game to lift D&Q, which bowed to Shirley's Coffee Shop in the opening week, to its first victory in the league that has been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Riungel was consistent on offense, delivering D&Q's first 4 points in the match

and finishing the first half with 9 markers to put his team on top at the break, 24-20. He added three more field goals at the resumption of the game to help D&Q beat the debuting Kanoa Resort.

Three D&Q players scored at least two field goal apiece to contribute to the squad's winning cause. Shawn Fujihira chipped in 8 points, while Kinty Eliesair and Derek Manglona combined for 10 markers.

Christian Bravo paced Kanoa Resort with his 12 points and had only June Alipio helping him out, as



the veteran player logged 8 points.

Meanwhile, Fiesta Resort & Spa notched its second win in as many games after routing CTSI, 62-45.

Fiesta pulled away in the second half, as it spread the wealth to take the early lead

See D&Q on Page 19

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
D&Q Saipan's William Benavente, left, reaches for the ball as he battles Shirley's Coffee Shop's Jeff Dayrit in the rebound play during the opening week of the 2020 TanHoldings Inter-Company Basketball League at the TSL Sports Complex.



Pastimes

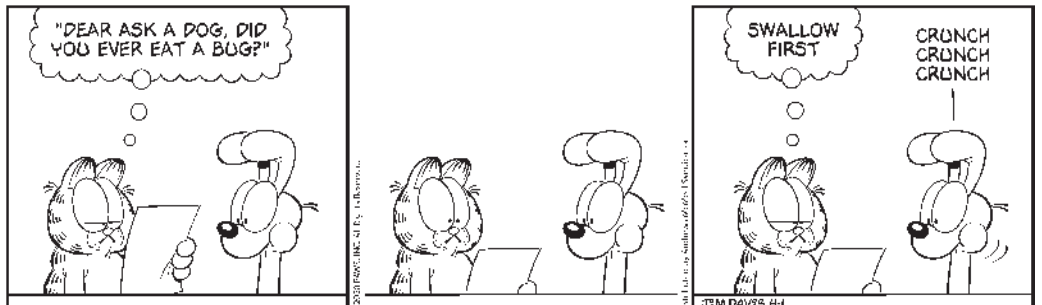
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jokester
4 Marquis de —
8 Kvetch
12 Garten of the Food Network
13 Vicinity
14 Done with
15 Court divider
16 Nuke in an appliance, say
18 Nerd
20 Catch red-handed
21 Disaster aid org.
24 Photo-copier need
28 "Julia" actress Vanessa
32 Harvard rival
33 College URL ender
34 Cross-word diagrams
36 Sports-caster Berman
37 Profound

DOWN

39 Secret meeting
41 Start
43 DEA agent
44 Pen name
46 Decree
50 Be bratty
55 Pair
56 Exam format
57 Grand tale
58 Table support
59 Carton sealer
60 Cal or Georgia
61 Mag. staff

1 Kite flier's need

2 From the top
3 Portal
4 "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" actor
5 "Exodus" hero
6 Xmas time
7 Deserve
8 Rodeo rider
9 "Selma" director
10 Speed (up)
11 Opposite of "post"
17 Feedbag tidbit
19 D followers
22 Artist
23 Par — (airmail stamp)
25 "The Lion King" lion
26 Hgt.
27 Thinker
28 Make over
29 Genesis garden
30 Union payment
31 Author
35 Piercing cry
38 Small stone
40 PC screen type
42 Dead heat
45 Guitarist
47 Not busy
48 Prompted
49 Clothing, informally
50 Witticism
51 401(k) alternative
52 Tree fluid
53 Chest-beating beast
54 London's Old —

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-1

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Asa

Butterfield, 23; Hillary Scott, 34; Taran Killam, 38; Susan Boyle, 59.

Happy Birthday: A little will go a long way this year. Hone your skills, and focus on what matters the most to you. You've spent too many years spreading yourself thin doing for others and not enough time engaging in your own best interests. It's your turn to head in a direction that will bring you the greatest joy. Your numbers are 5, 12, 19, 27, 35, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may feel targeted. Keep a low profile, take care of your responsibilities and don't let anyone goad you into a senseless argument. It's what you accomplish that will matter when all is said and done. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Consider your emotional needs, and start to make the changes necessary to ensure your happiness. Get the lowdown regarding the paperwork, financial plan or legal implications that you will have to deal with to get what you want. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Update your skills, knowledge and technological savvy. Refuse to let someone from your past disrupt your plans. Keep your feet planted on the ground when it comes to emotional matters. Willpower will be required if you want to get ahead. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotional indulgence will be your enemy. Stay focused, and expand your knowledge, ideas and plans. Don't lose sight of your goals. Keep

life simple, live in the moment and don't overreact. Choose your words wisely, and make creativity a priority. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refuse to let an unexpected change lead to an argument. Keep your opinions to yourself until you know all the facts and you are sure you can live with the results should things not go your way. Take the high road. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your kindness and generosity are admirable, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Listen and make suggestions, but don't offer handouts. A partnership is looking exceptionally fortuitous. A makeover will lift your spirits and lead to compliments. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look for the good in whatever situation you face, and you will come out on top. If you overreact, take on too much or let someone bully you, it will lead to discord. Take pride in handling matters with grace and dignity. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Use your imagination, be creative and follow your heart. You have so much to gain if you pursue what makes you happy. Surround yourself with supportive people, not those who are jealous or use emotional manipulation. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay off any personal debts as quickly as possible. Cut your overhead, and start thinking about your financial future. How you handle matters now will make a difference to the lifestyle you lead in the future. Avoid excess and indulgence. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make a change at home that will please someone you love or will bring you joy. Love and romance are on the rise, and the way you address personal matters will determine the outcome. Be open about the way you feel. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Concentrate on self-improvement, not trying to change others. Your health and emotional well-being should be priorities. Do what's best for you instead of trying to please everyone around you. Be responsible for your happiness, and follow your heart. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Share your thoughts and experience with someone you feel will benefit and offer something in return. A smart investment will pay off if you are patient and disciplined in the way you go about getting things done. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are curious, engaging and observant. You are astute and intuitive.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		4			5						
8			7		9					3	
	5		3	4	2		6				
		7				3					
3		5				9				2	
	1	9				6	8				
		8				4					
	9		2	1	4		7				
	7						3				

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/01

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	7	5	3	9	4	1	2	8
2	9	1	5	8	7	4	6	3
4	3	8	2	6	1	5	9	7
3	8	7	4	5	9	6	1	2
9	6	4	1	3	2	7	8	5
1	5	2	8	7	6	9	3	4
7	1	3	9	2	5	8	4	6
8	4	6	7	1	3	2	5	9
5	2	9	6	4	8	3	7	1

By Today's Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

POLISH KIELBASA

Solution: 7 letters

R D L L I R G D S N O I N O S
S O E O T N E M I P L O E G P
W A A P I T O E Z E I V K A E
S A U S A G E U D G O J C R M
O H A E T H R B E L T K I L U
N C H L R E S R C S S H H I I
A I K I K K D U I T S M C C D
B W D N U O R G R L U A E E O
A D E K I E S A L T O R K L S
K N K S D G B I U T S O K T L
S A D C R K H I A T M J F E T
J S E C U A S T A S M R A E Y
E M I X E D O P S L E A R W P
I D R A H P L C A S A M M S E
W E D A M E M O H E T I H W S

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4/1

Belt, Blala, Casing, Chicken, Clove, Coarse, Cured, Deer, Deli, Dried, Duck, Farm, Fresh, Garlic, Grill, Ground, Hard, Heated, Hillshire, Homemade, Kabanos, Knights, Links, Marjoram, Meat, Mixed, Onions, Pack, Pimento, Potato, Region, Rice, Roasted, Salt, Sandwich, Sauces, Sauerkraut, Sausage, Smell, Smoked, Sodium, Staple, Sweet, Turkey, Types, U-Shaped, White, Wiejska, Zurek
Yesterday's Answer: **Legendary**
Treasuries 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21 through 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

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